PLUTO
URASAWA X TEZUKA
A NEW VISION BASED ON ASTRO BOY – 'THE GREATEST ROBOT ON EARTH'
BY NAOKI URASAWA AND OSAMU TEZUKA
PLUTO
CO-AUTHORED WITH TAKASHI NAGASAKI
SUPERVISED BY MACOTO TEZKA
WITH THE COOPERATION OF TEZUKA PRODUCTIONS

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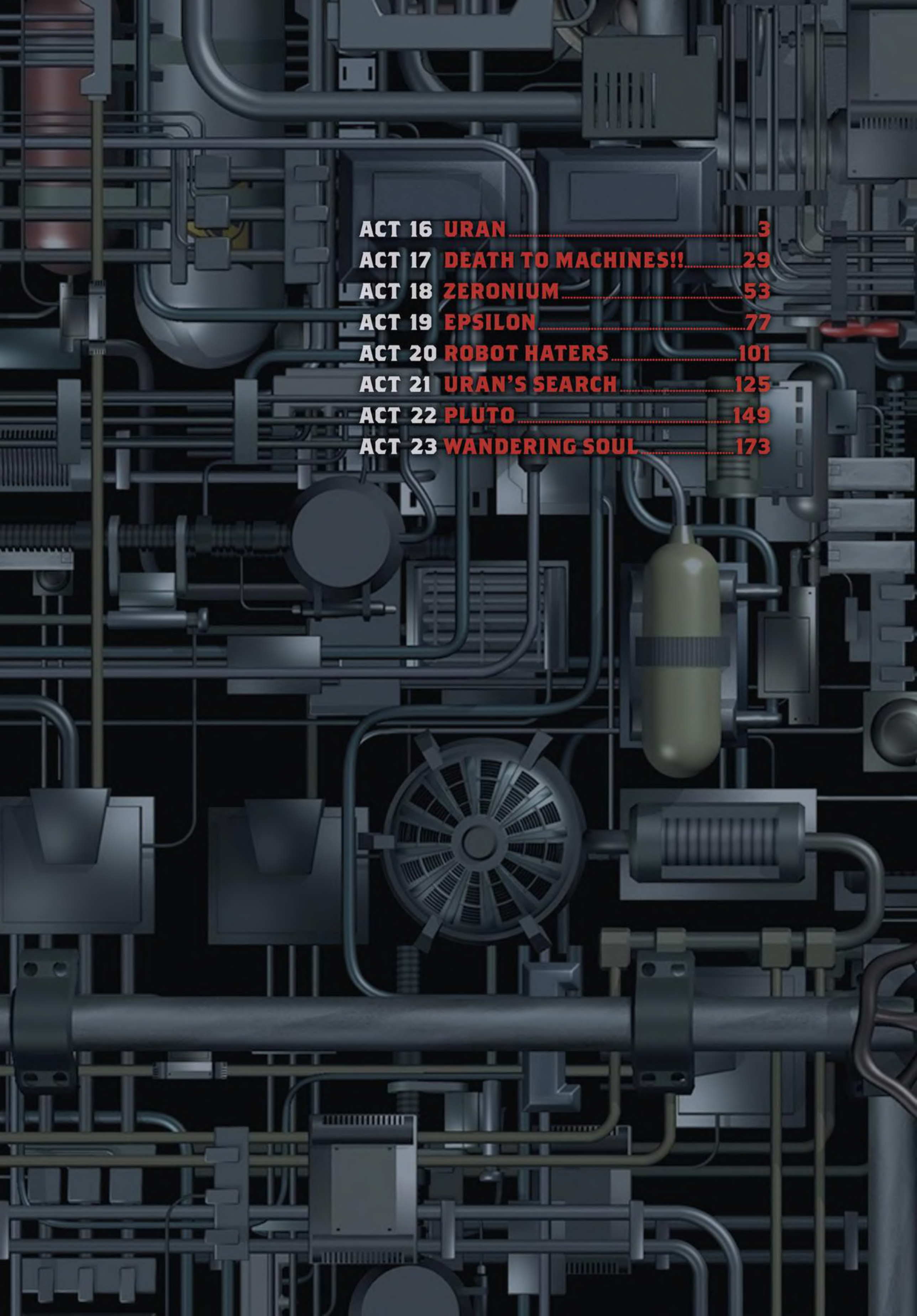

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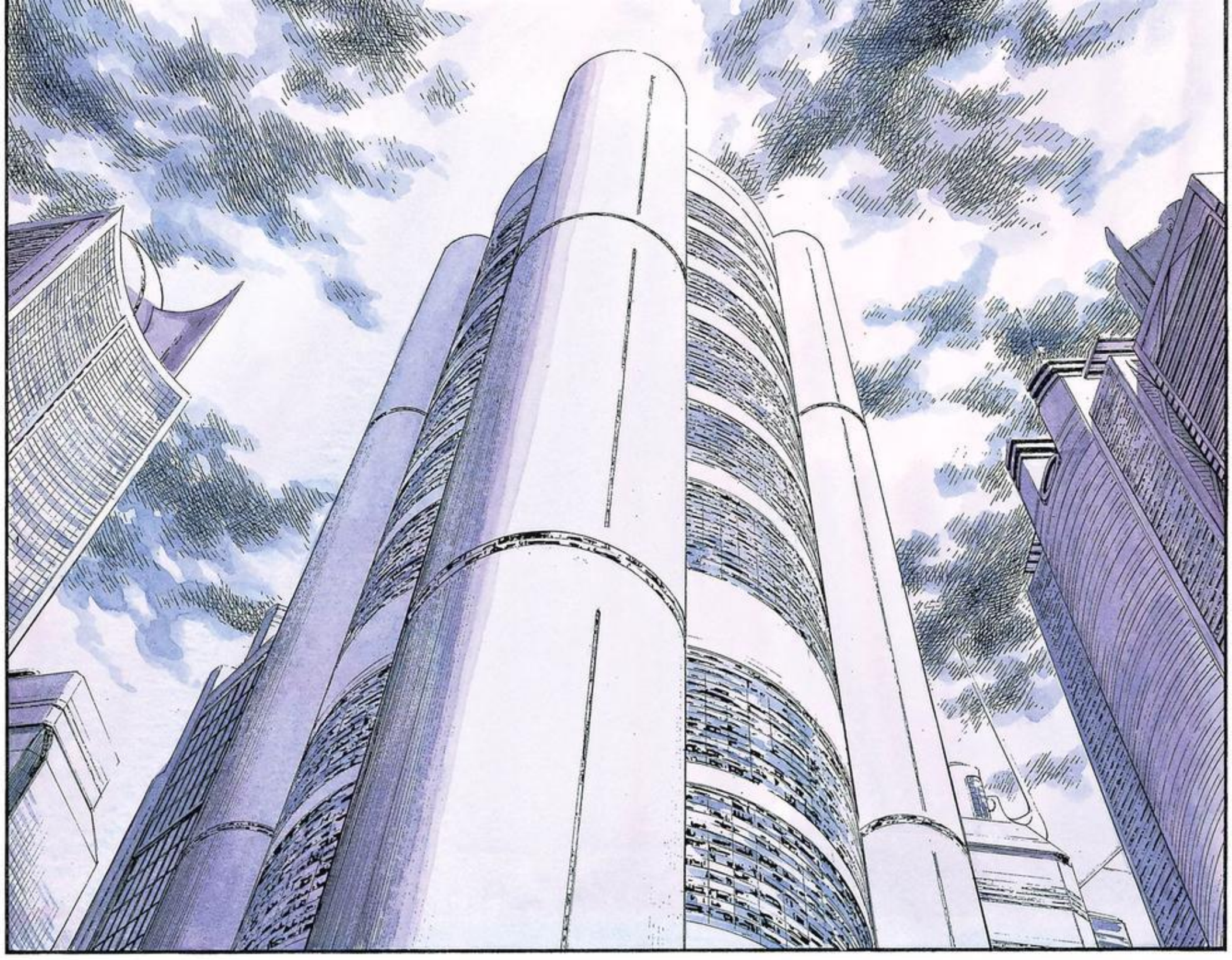


警視庁
METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

YOU SENSED THEY WERE AFRAID?

YEAH, THAT'S WHAT I SAID.

YEAH, KIND OF... I GUESS...

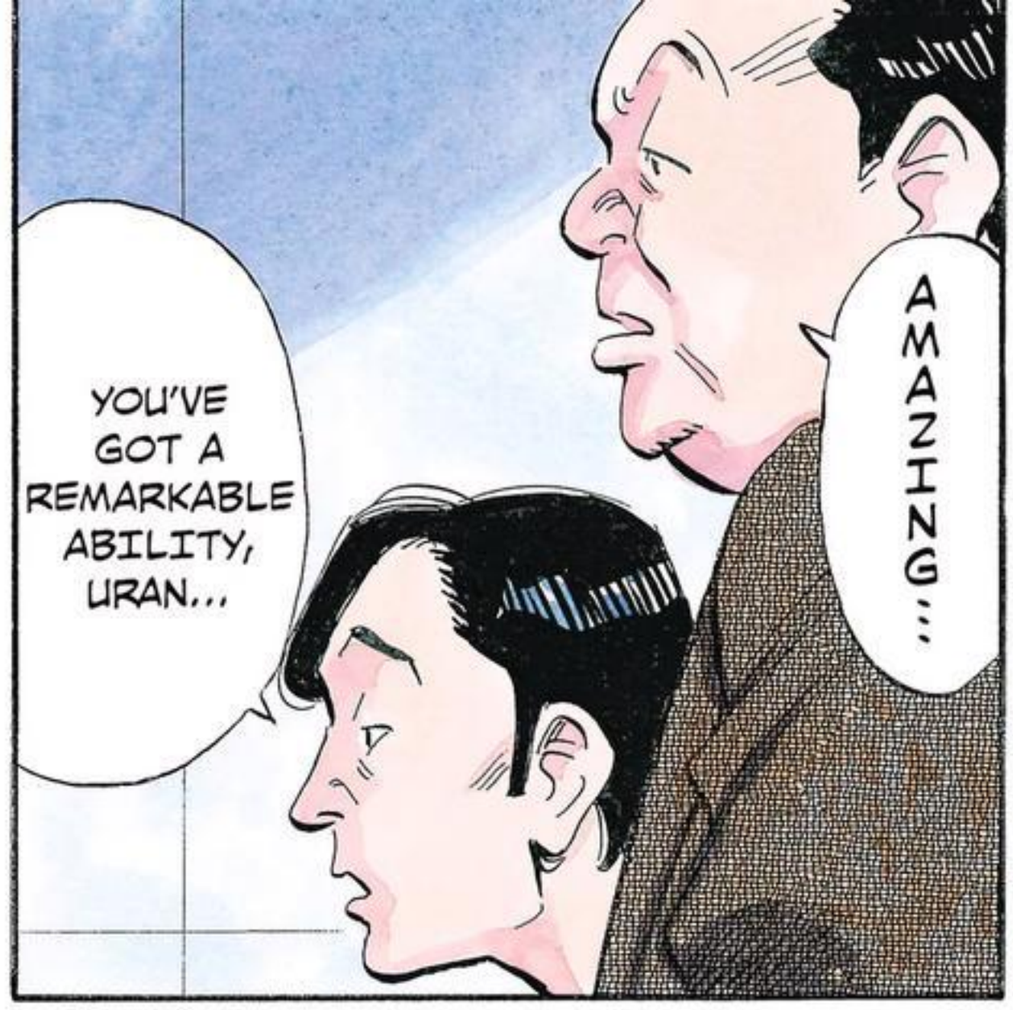
YOU MEAN THE LION AND THE TIGERS THAT ESCAPED FROM THE TRANSPORT TRUCK WERE *SCARED*?

SO LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT, URAN...

YOU COULD TELL THE ANIMALS WERE AFRAID FROM THREE KILOMETERS AWAY?

AND THAT'S WHY YOU WENT THREE KILOMETERS OUT OF YOUR WAY TO THE TORNADO SITE INSTEAD OF TAKING YOUR USUAL COURSE TO SCHOOL?

UH, HUH. THAT'S RIGHT.


YOU'VE GOT A REMARKABLE ABILITY, URAN...
AMAZING...

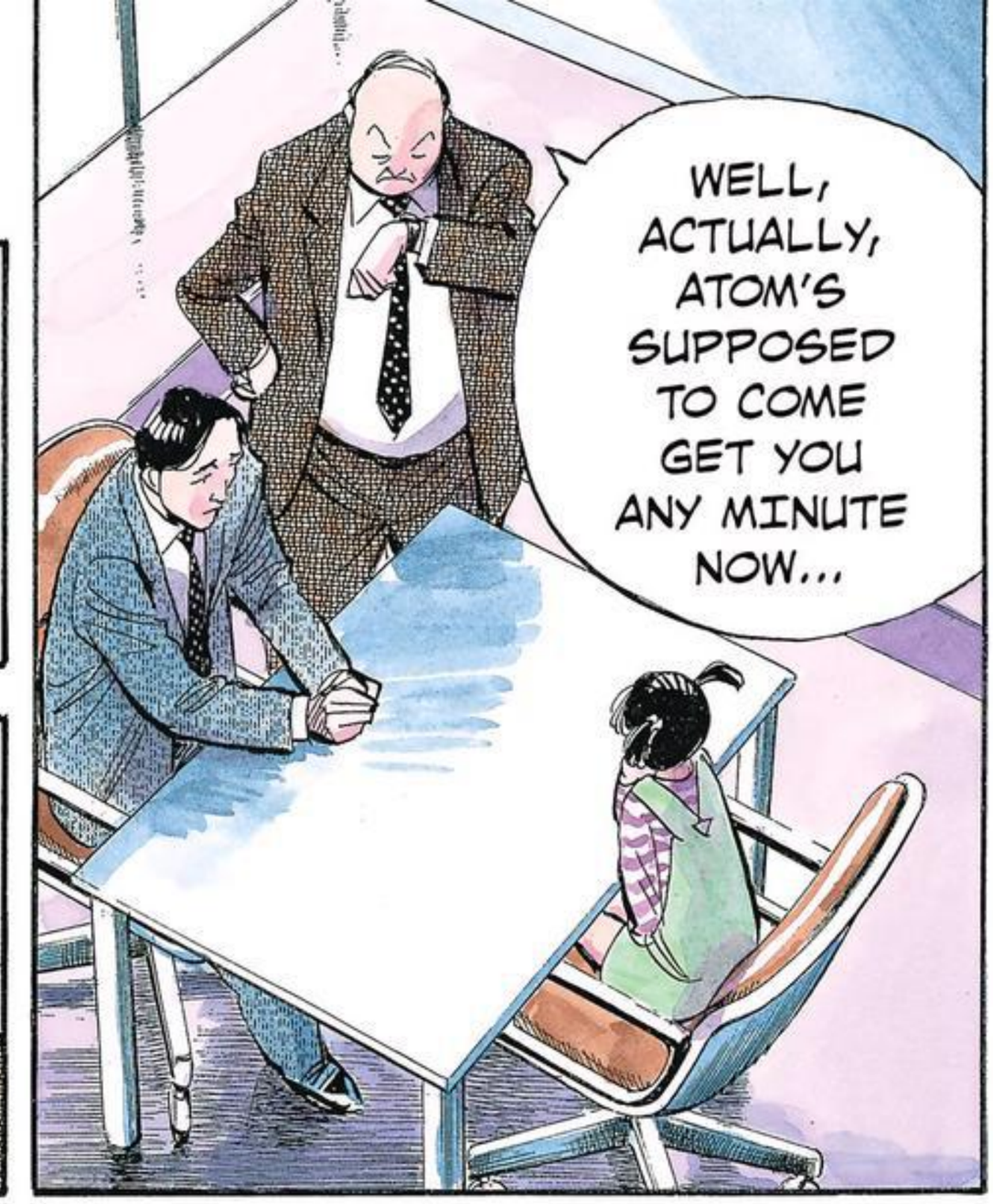
YEAH, KIND OF.

YES?
UM...

CAN I GO HOME NOW?

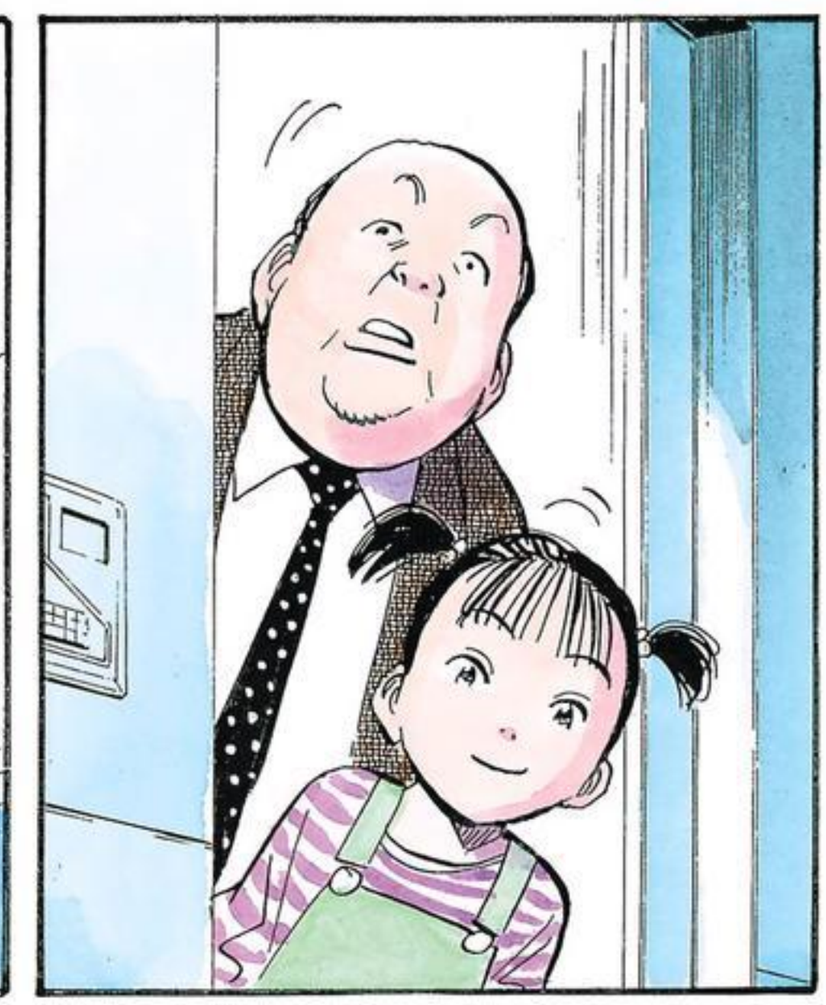
Act 16
URAN

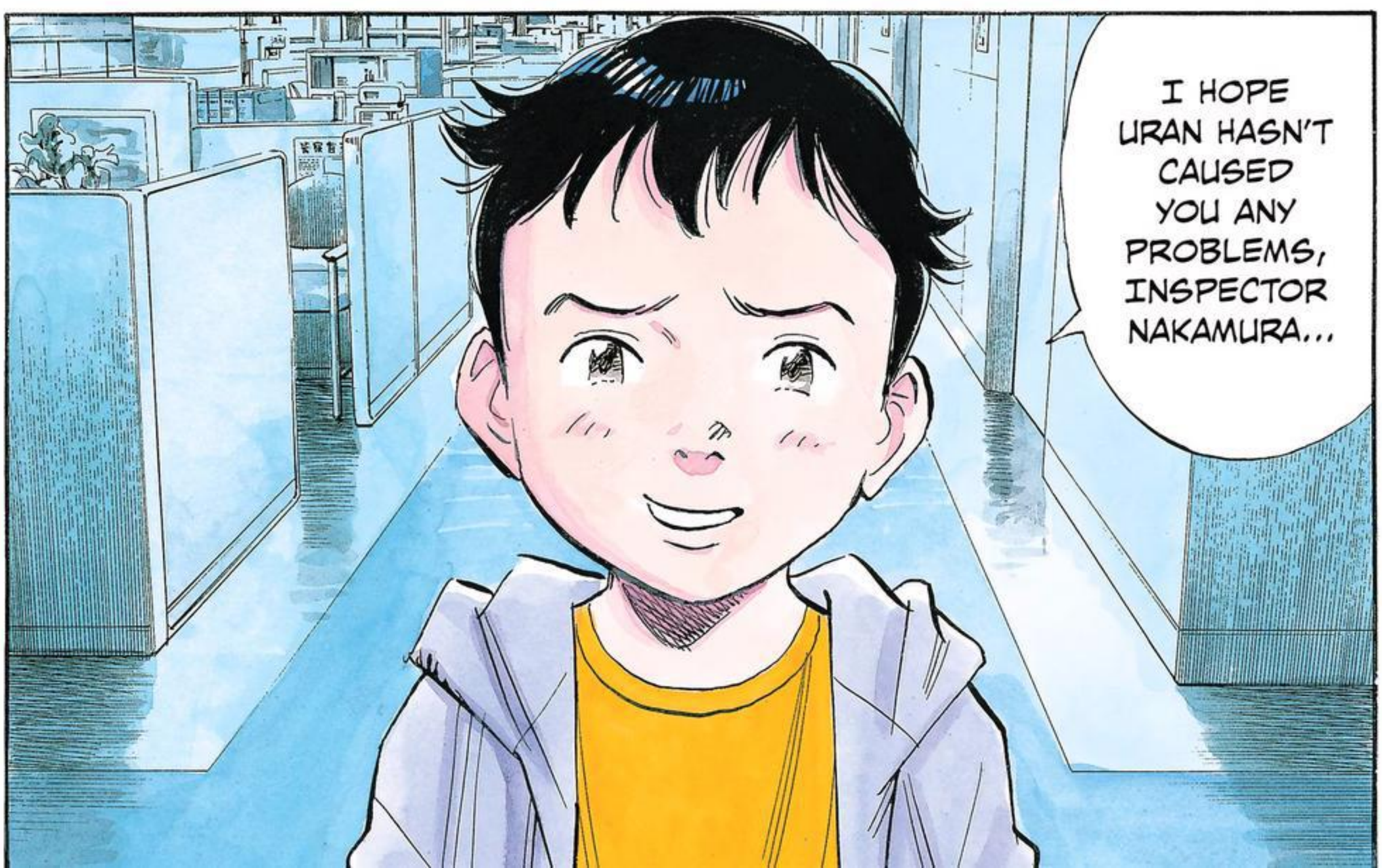
IF IT'S MY BROTHER YOU'RE WAITING FOR, HE'S RIGHT OVER THERE.


WELL, ACTUALLY, ATOM'S SUPPOSED TO COME GET YOU ANY MINUTE NOW...

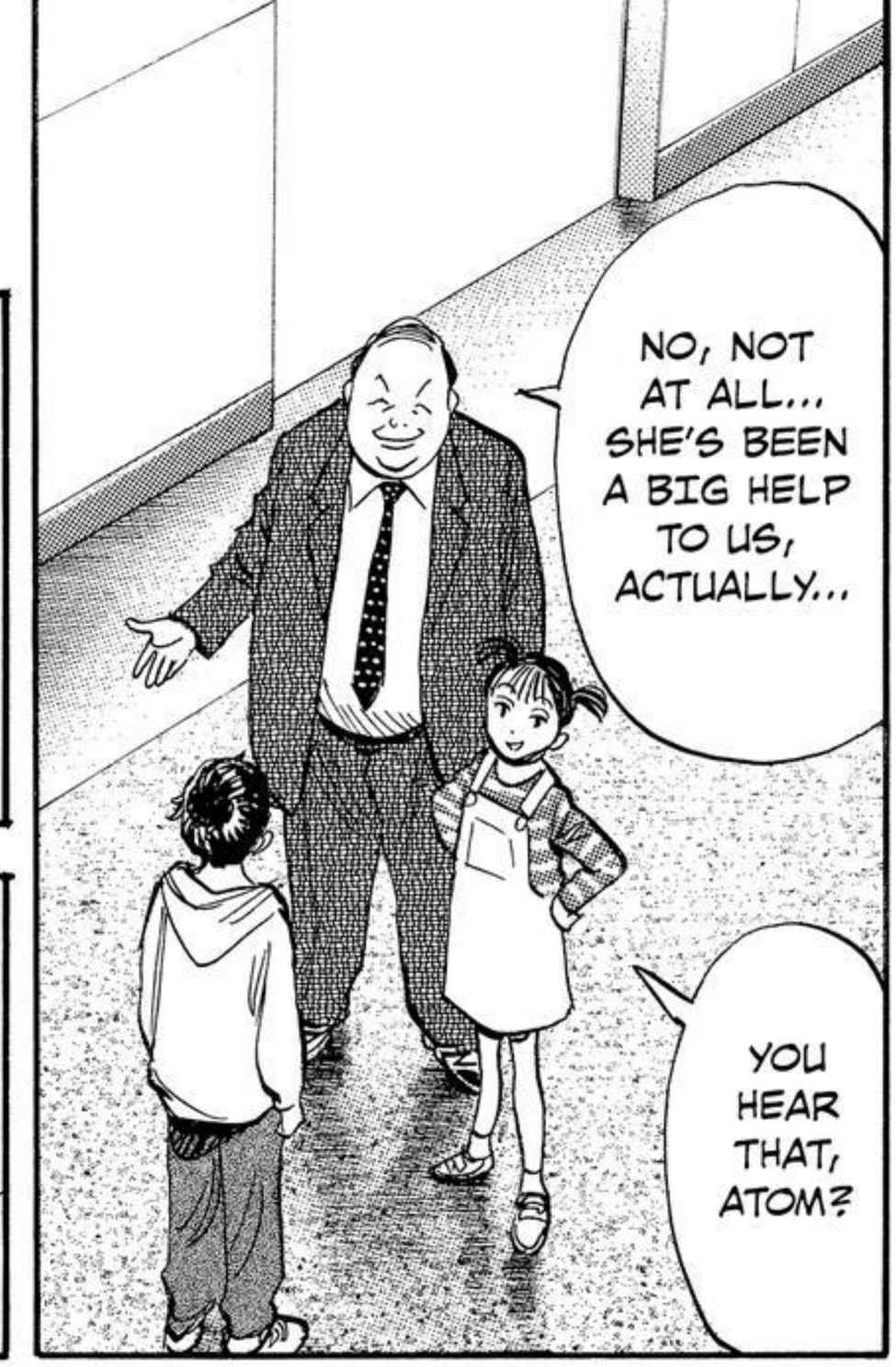
WHA--?

HOW 'BOUT THAT...? YOU'RE RIGHT...

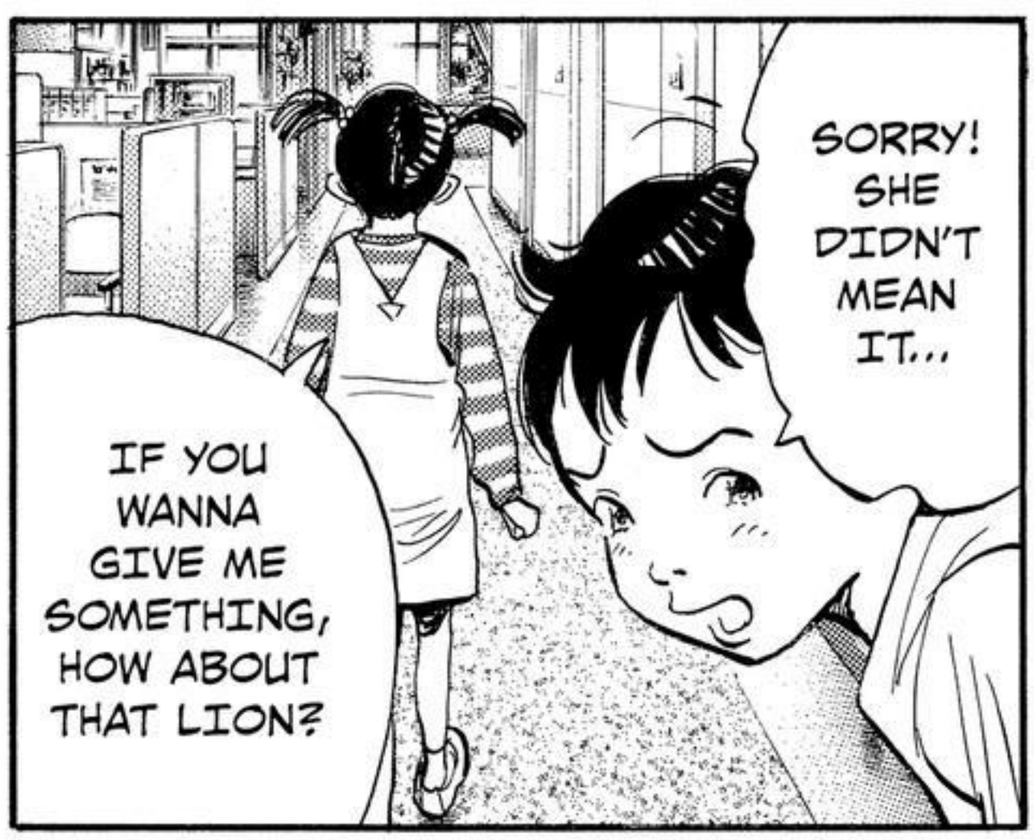


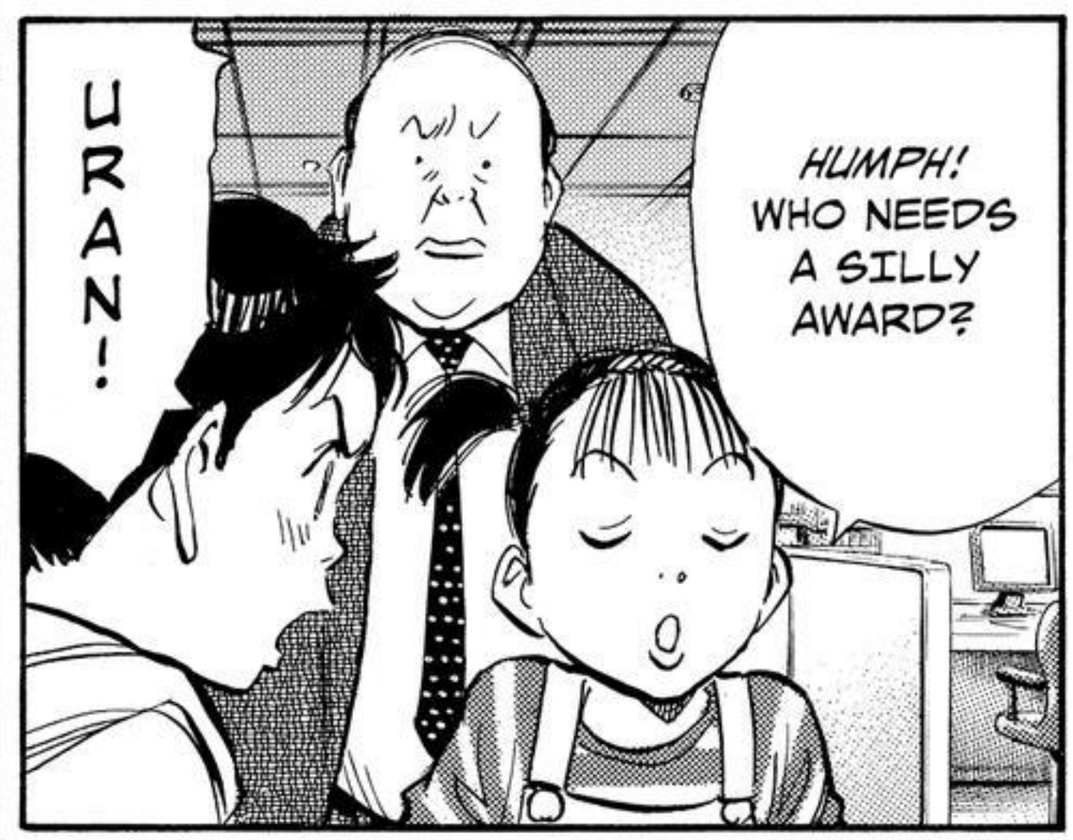

I HOPE URAN HASN'T CAUSED YOU ANY PROBLEMS, INSPECTOR NAKAMURA...

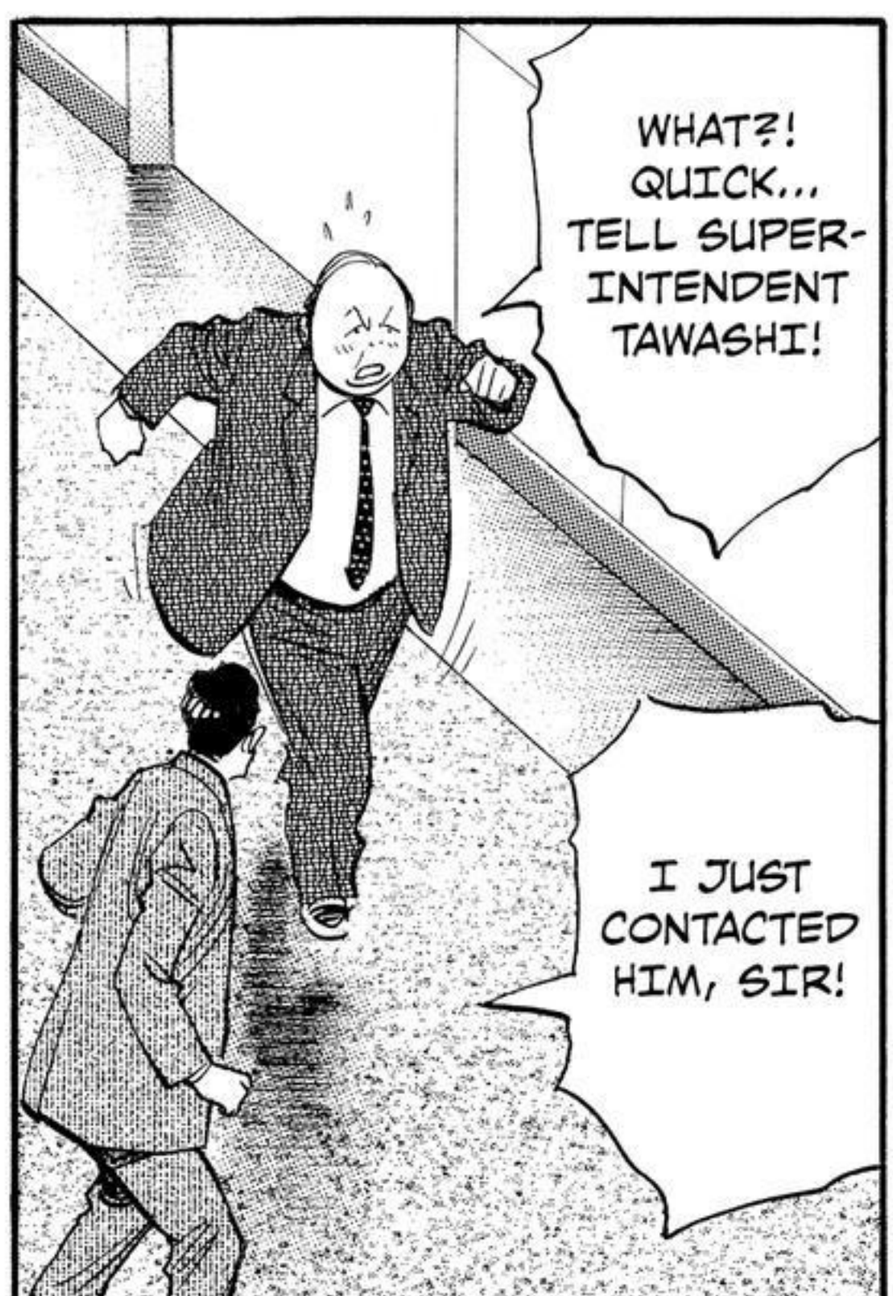
AND THE LITTLE KID'S SAFE TOO.
THANKS TO ME, THE BIG CATS WERE ALL SAFELY CAPTURED.


NO, NOT AT ALL... SHE'S BEEN A BIG HELP TO US, ACTUALLY...
YOU HEAR THAT, ATOM?

WORTHY OF THE POLICE SUPER-INTENDENT GENERAL'S AWARD!
HEH HEH...


SORRY! SHE DIDN'T MEAN IT...
IF YOU WANNA GIVE ME SOMETHING, HOW ABOUT THAT LION?


URAN!
HUMPH! WHO NEEDS A SILLY AWARD?


WHAT?! QUICK... TELL SUPER-INTENDENT TAWASHI!
I JUST CONTACTED HIM, SIR!

HE'S HERE! IN THE LOBBY!

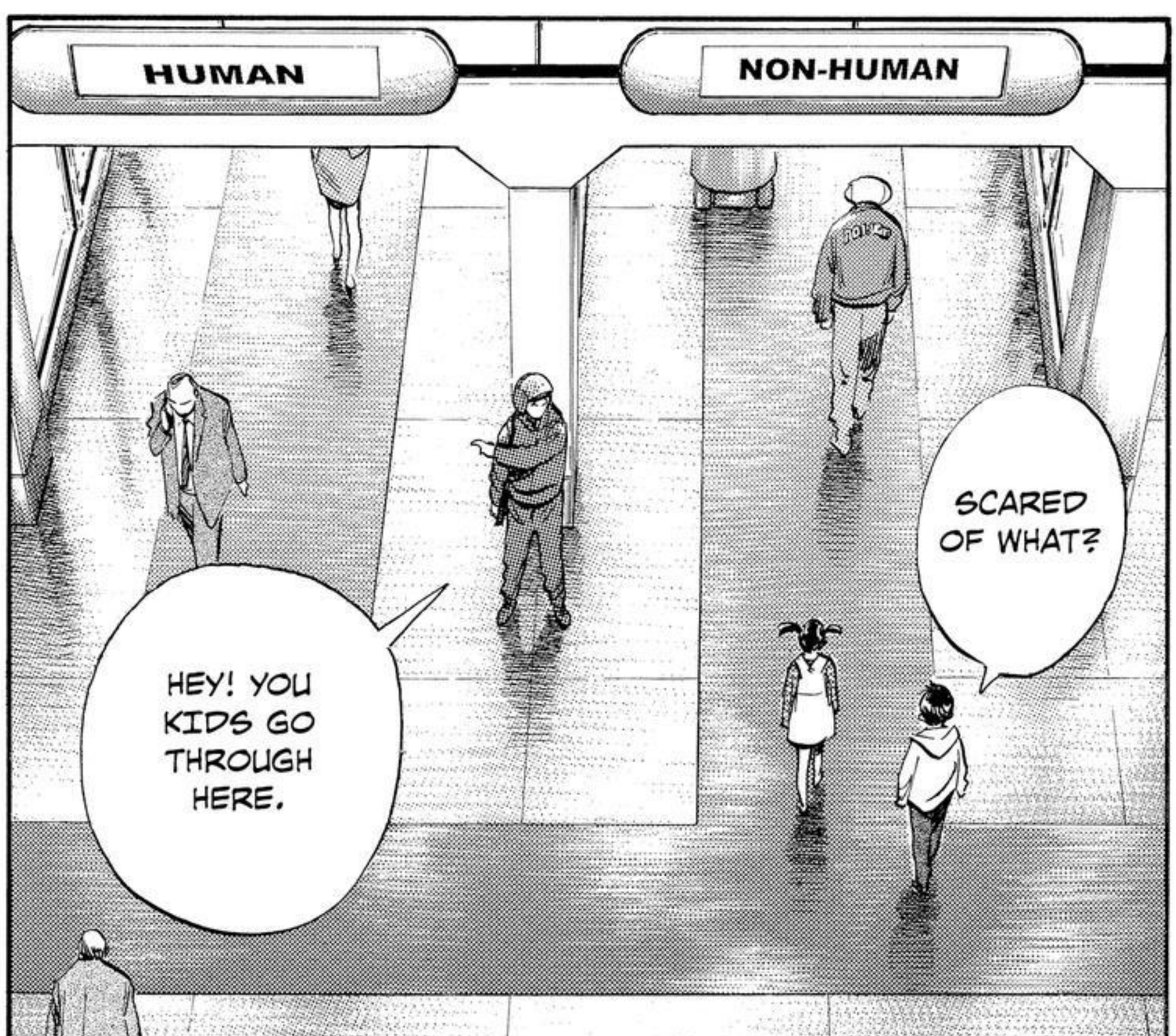
A LION? HA HA...
INSPECTOR NAKAMURA, SIR!

HE HAD THE SWEETEST EYES. I WISH WE COULD KEEP HIM AS A PET.
AND ONE WAS A REALLY RARE WHITE LION.

AND THIIIIS BIG!
THEY WERE REALLY, REALLY CUTE, ATOM!

BUT I COULDN'T HELP IT!
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO GO STRAIGHT TO SCHOOL!!

HE'S AT THE CENTRAL ZOO, ATOM. WANNA GO SEE HIM?
URAN, PLEASE ...


HUMAN
NON-HUMAN
HEY! YOU KIDS GO THROUGH HERE.
SCARED OF WHAT?

THEY WERE SCARED!

NON-HUMAN
HUMAN

HMPH... YOU JUST CAN'T TELL NOWADAYS...

ACTUALLY, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO GO HERE...

HUH? REALLY?

KLAK
KLAK

KLAK
KLAK

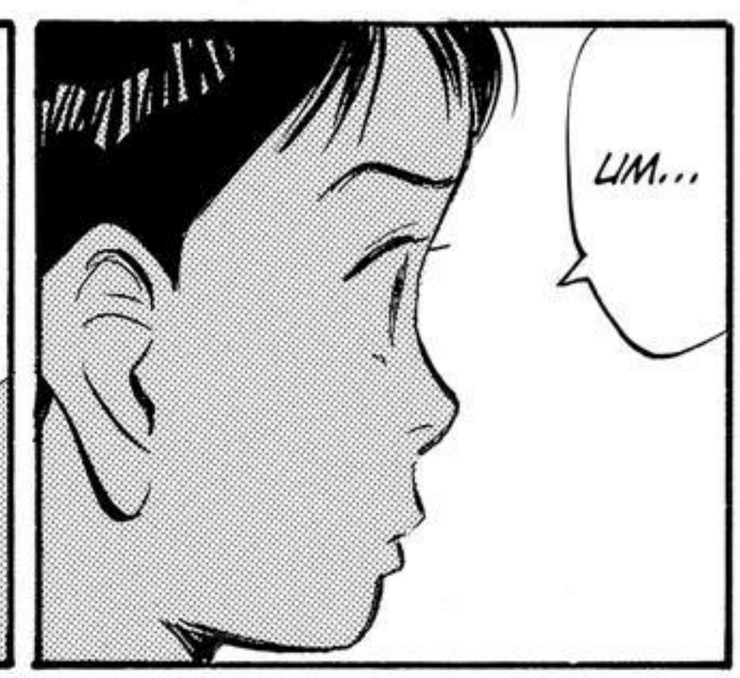
HUMAN
RIGHT THIS WAY, PLEASE...

IF I HADN'T GONE THERE, THEY MIGHT'VE *SHOT* THOSE ANIMALS...

I'M TELLING YOU, ATOM, YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE HOW AWFUL IT WAS.

WHAT'S THE MATTER, ATOM?

SO IT'S NOT LIKE I REALLY WANDERED OFF...
NOTHING ...


UM...

I'M POLICE SUPER-INTENDENT TAWASHI.
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR COMING...

YOU WON'T NEED ONE. I SPEAK JAPANESE...

UH... A-ABRA... CADABRA...

AH... ER...

DON'T WORRY...

HEY... GET ME A TRANSLATION MACHINE....

PLEASE, BE MY GUEST...

PLEASE, HAVE A SEAT. I APOLOGIZE FOR THE DRAB SURROUNDINGS ...

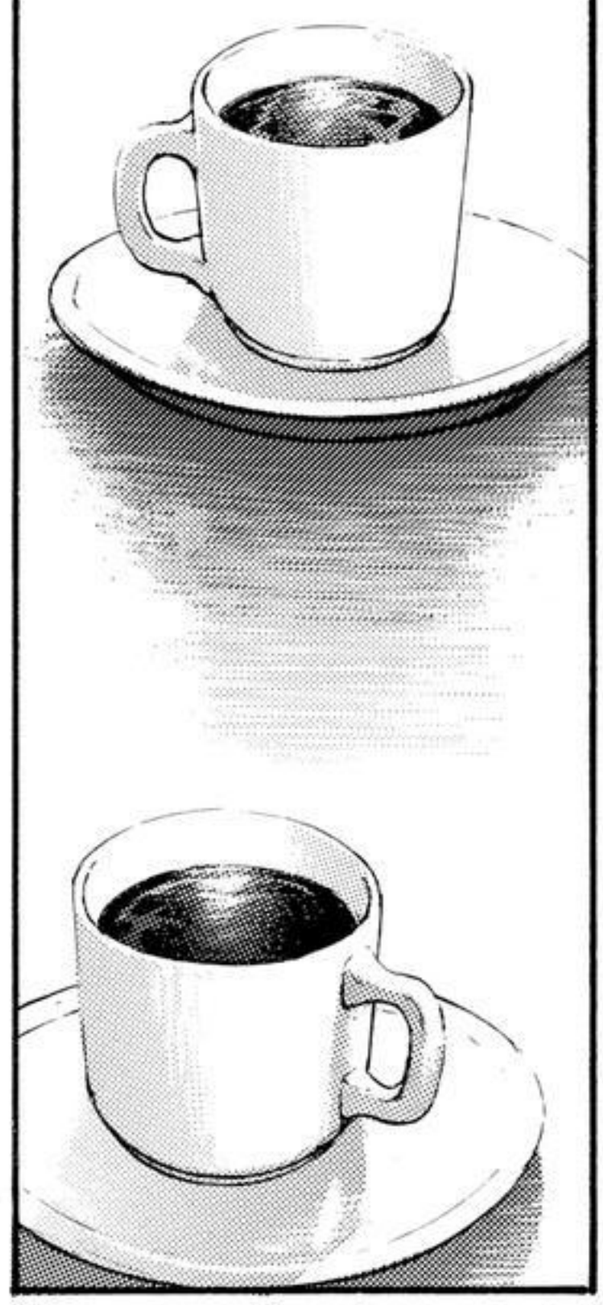
AH... OH... YES... PROFESSOR ABULLAH... JUST WHAT YOU'D EXPECT FROM CENTRAL ASIA'S GREATEST INTELLECT!!

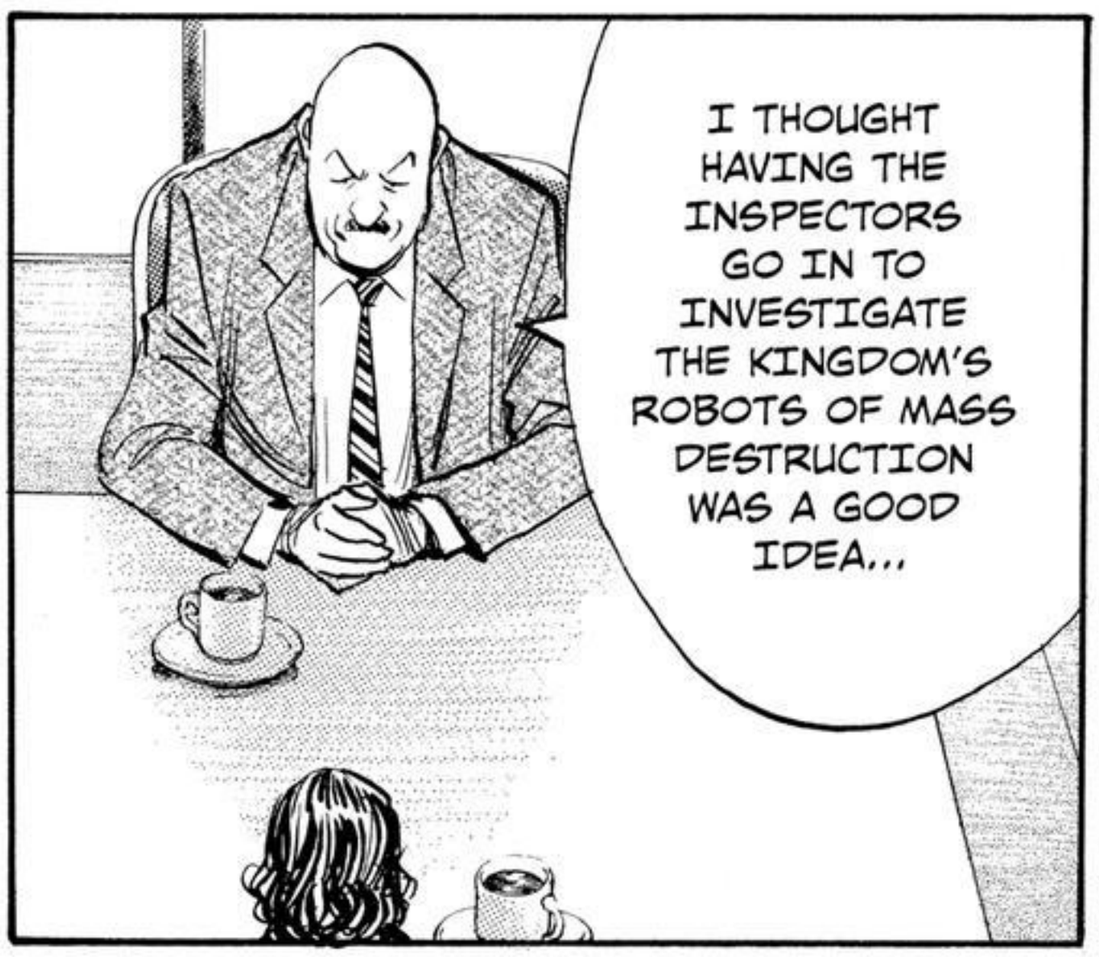
ESPECIALLY COMPARED TO THE PRESENT CONDITIONS IN MY HOME COUNTRY OF PERSIA...

NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE... WHEREVER I GO IN JAPAN, I FIND IT BEAUTIFUL...

THANK YOU FOR THE SYMPATHY...

WE ALL WATCHED THE NEWS FROM YOUR COUNTRY WITH HEAVY HEARTS, PROFESSOR.





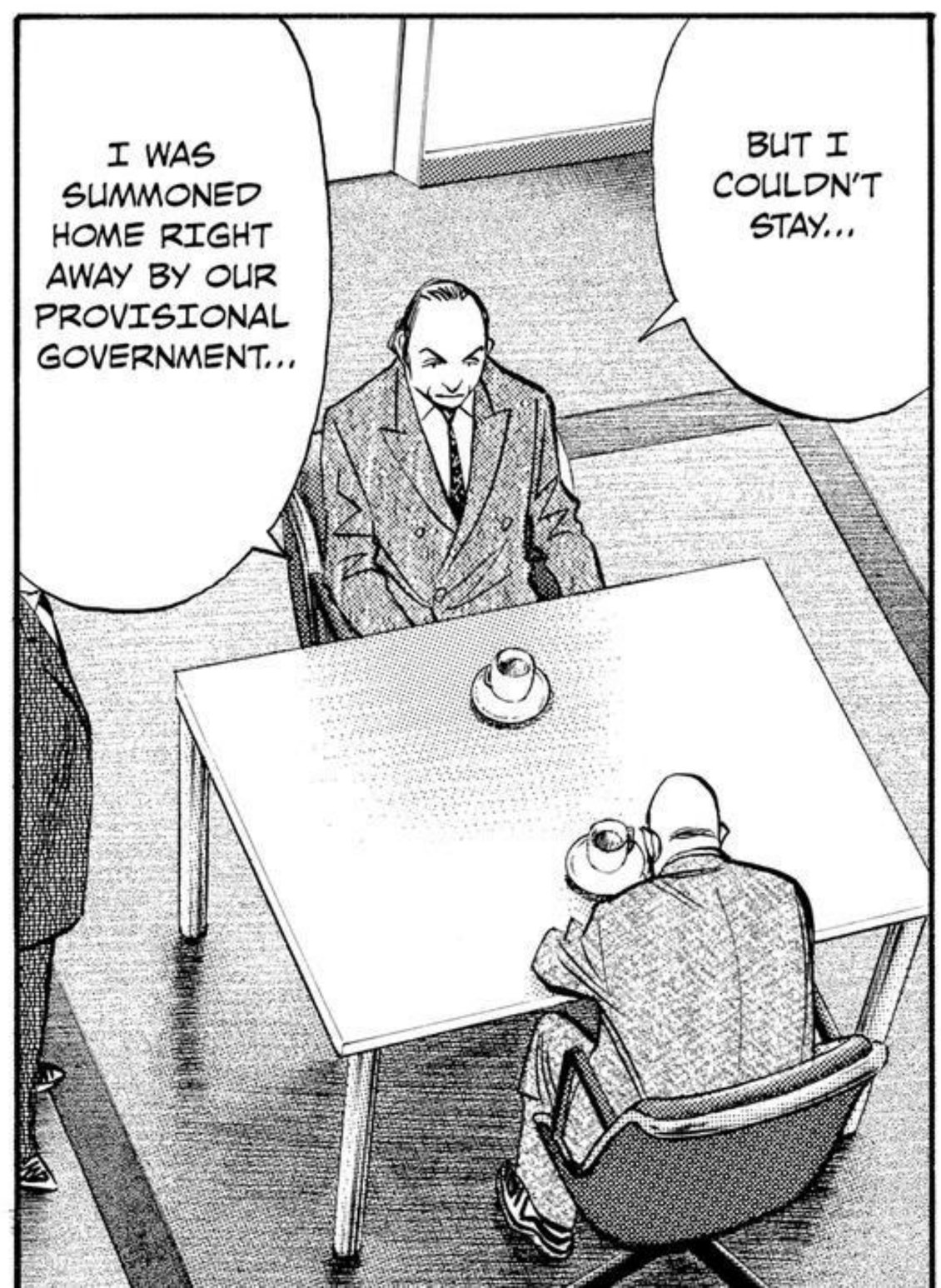
SO THIS VISIT TO JAPAN IS PART OF THE POSTWAR RECONSTRUCTION EFFORT ...?

BUT NOW WE ARE DOING OUR BEST TO MAKE THE TRANSITION TO A DEMOCRACY...

BY THE WAY, PROFESSOR ABULLAH...
THANK YOU...

YES. I'M HERE TO ATTEND THE WORLD SCIENCE PEACE CONFERENCE THAT'S BEING HELD IN TOKYO...

WELL, WE CERTAINLY HOPE THAT THINGS TURN OUT WELL FOR YOU.

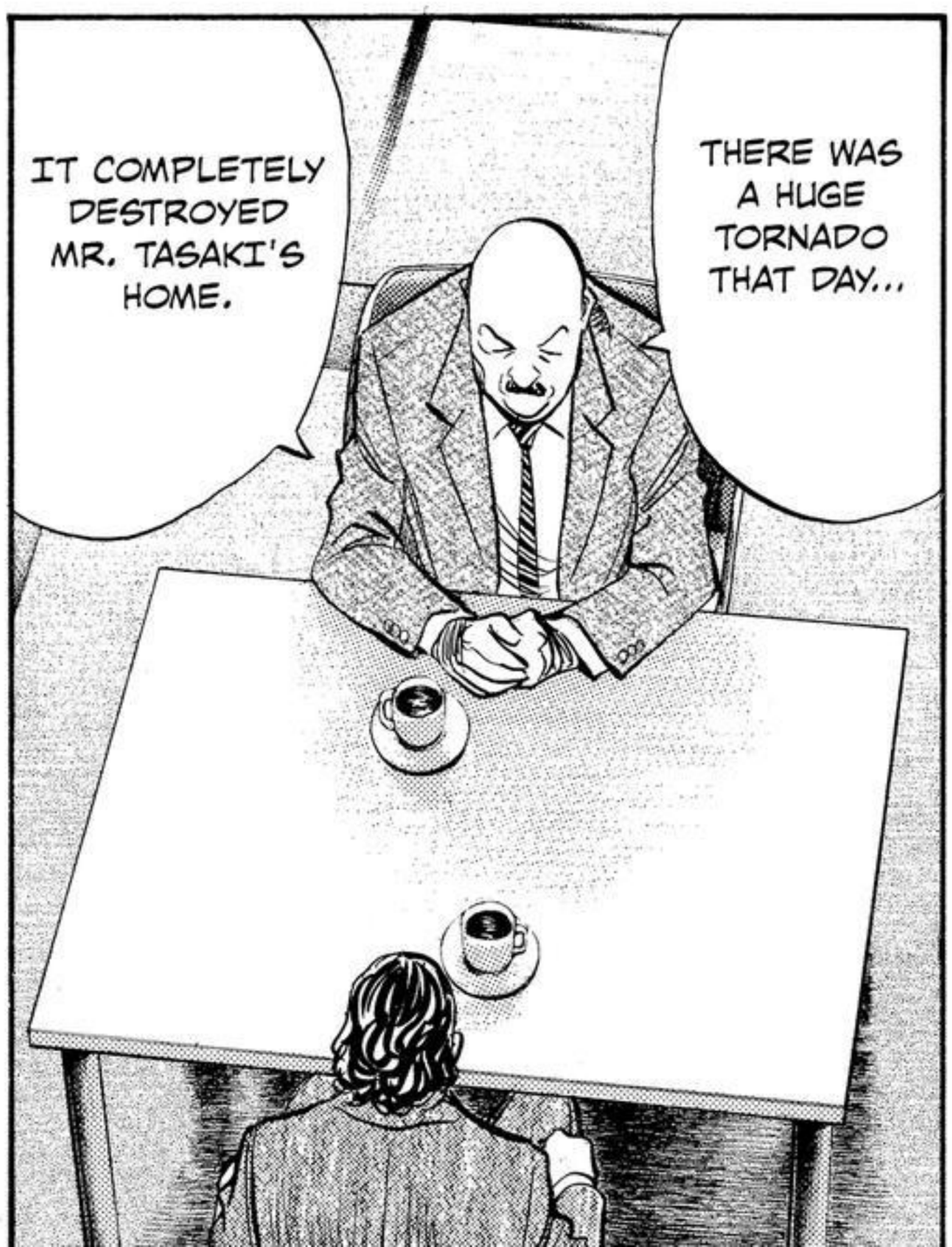

I WAS SUMMONED HOME RIGHT AWAY BY OUR PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT...
BUT I COULDN'T STAY...

DID YOU BY ANY CHANCE ALSO VISIT JAPAN THREE MONTHS AGO?

YES, I DID...

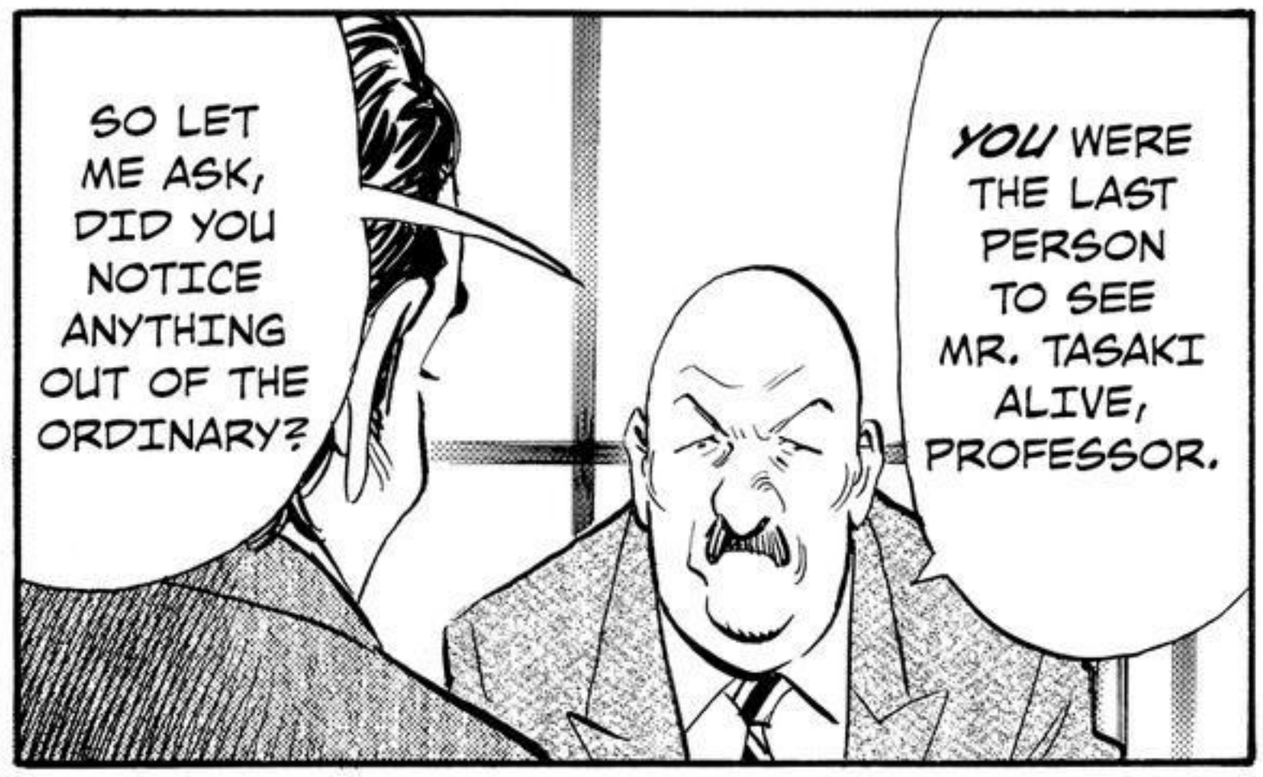
I HAD HOPED TO MEET PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU, BUT UNFORTUNATELY DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME...

OF COURSE. IT WAS PART OF AN INFORMATION EXCHANGE, TO HELP CREATE A NEW MINISTRY OF SCIENCE FOR US...



SOMEONE MURDERED JUNICHIRO TASAKI.

BUT THAT WASN'T THE CAUSE OF HIS DEATH...


SO LET ME ASK, DID YOU NOTICE ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY?
YOU WERE THE LAST PERSON TO SEE MR. TASAKI ALIVE, PROFESSOR.

WE KNOW THE INCIDENT HAPPENED AT THE TIME YOUR PLANE WAS TAKING OFF FROM THE AIRPORT.
REST ASSURED, PROFESSOR. YOU'RE NOT UNDER SUSPICION.

IT WAS SOMETHING THAT HE BELIEVED IN WITH HIS HEART AND SOUL...
AS YOU KNOW, MR. TASAKI WAS THE FIRST PERSON TO COME UP WITH THE IDEA FOR THE INTER-NATIONAL ROBOT LAWS.

I COULDN'T SPEND MUCH TIME WITH HIM, BUT HE HAD SO MANY WONDERFUL THINGS TO TELL ME...

HE WAS ABSOLUTELY CONVINCED THAT HUMANS AND ROBOTS COULD LIVE TOGETHER IN PEACE...

WHAT HAS?

THIS HAS HAPPENED BEFORE, Y'KNOW...

LIKE THE TIME IN HOKKAIDO WHEN THAT DOG WAS DROWNING IN A POND...

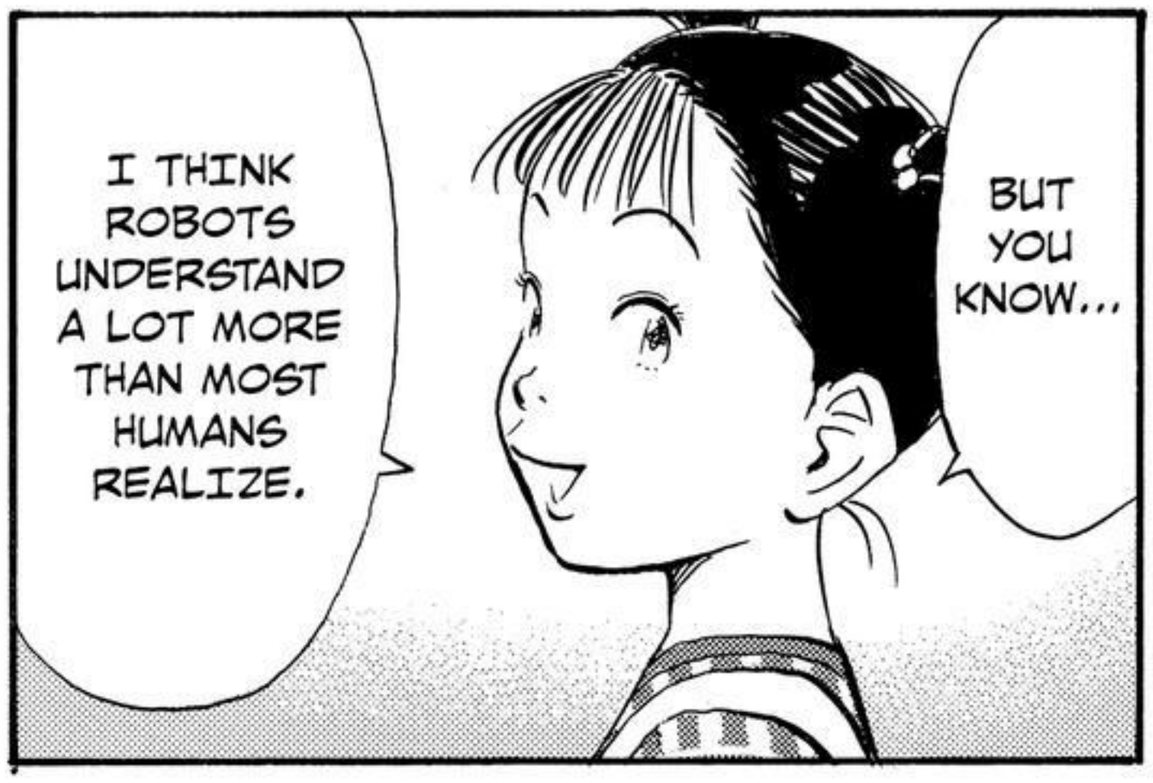
OH... RIGHT...

YOU RAISING A BIG RUCKUS BECAUSE YOU SENSE SOMETHING IN FEAR...

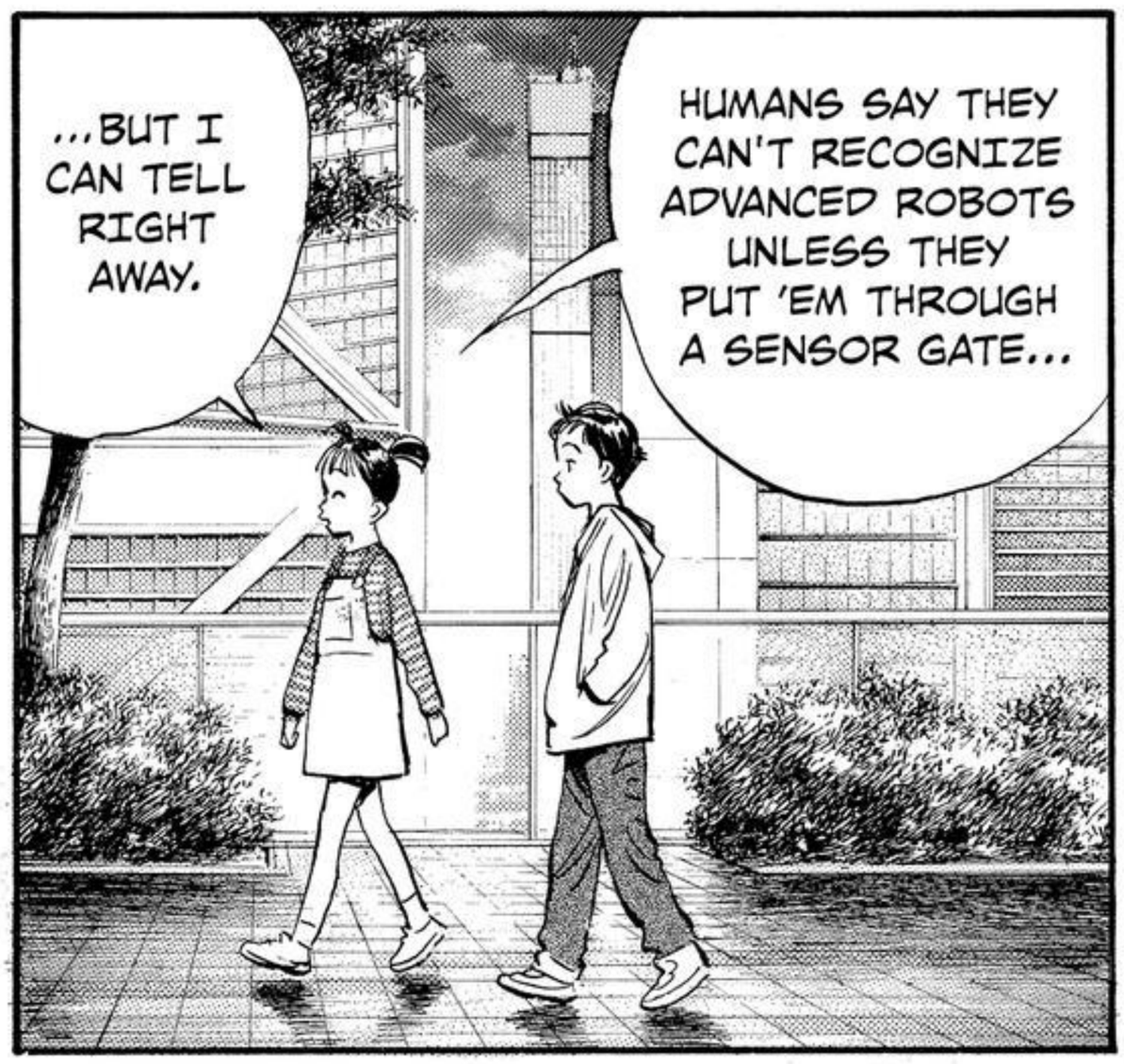
BUT YOU KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT, RIGHT, ATOM?

I'M AMAZED AT YOUR ABILITY TO SENSE THIS STUFF, URAN...

THAT'S *RIGHT*! I HELPED SAVE THAT LITTLE PUPPY, DIDN'T I?


I THINK ROBOTS UNDERSTAND A LOT MORE THAN MOST HUMANS REALIZE.
BUT YOU KNOW...

SORT OF...
BUT TO BE AFRAID OF SOMETHING IS REALLY A HUMAN SORT OF THING...


...BUT I CAN TELL RIGHT AWAY.
HUMANS SAY THEY CAN'T RECOGNIZE ADVANCED ROBOTS UNLESS THEY PUT 'EM THROUGH A SENSOR GATE...

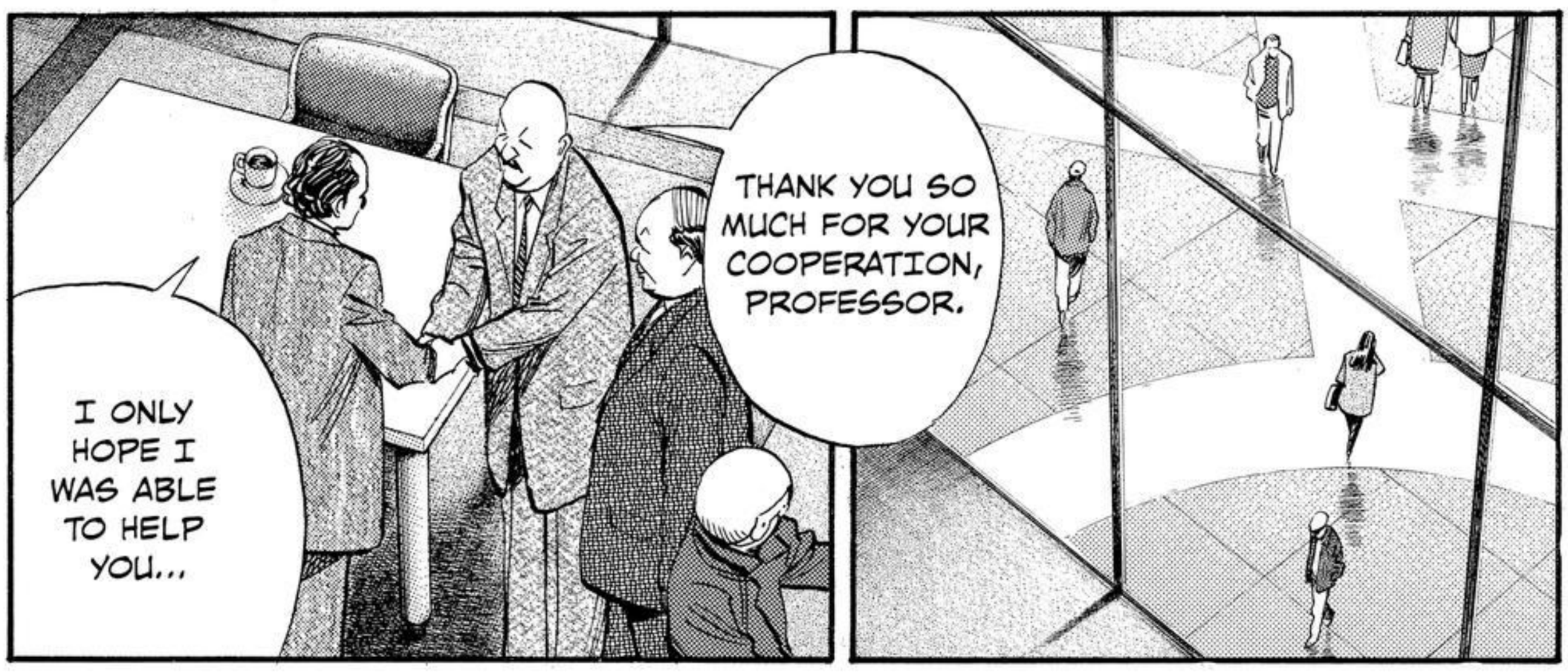
I JUST HAVE A HARD TIME EXPLAINING WHAT IT IS I FEEL...
HMM...

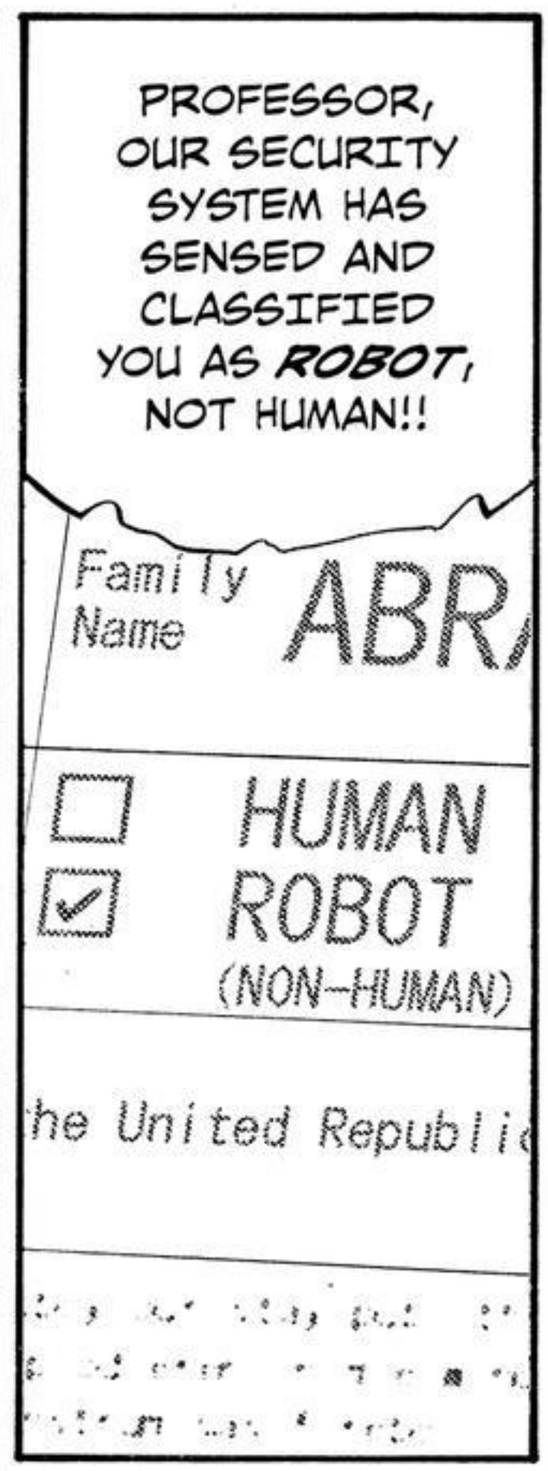
YOU KNOW THAT GUY WHO PASSED US BY THE SENSOR GATE EARLIER?

WHAT'S WRONG, ATOM?

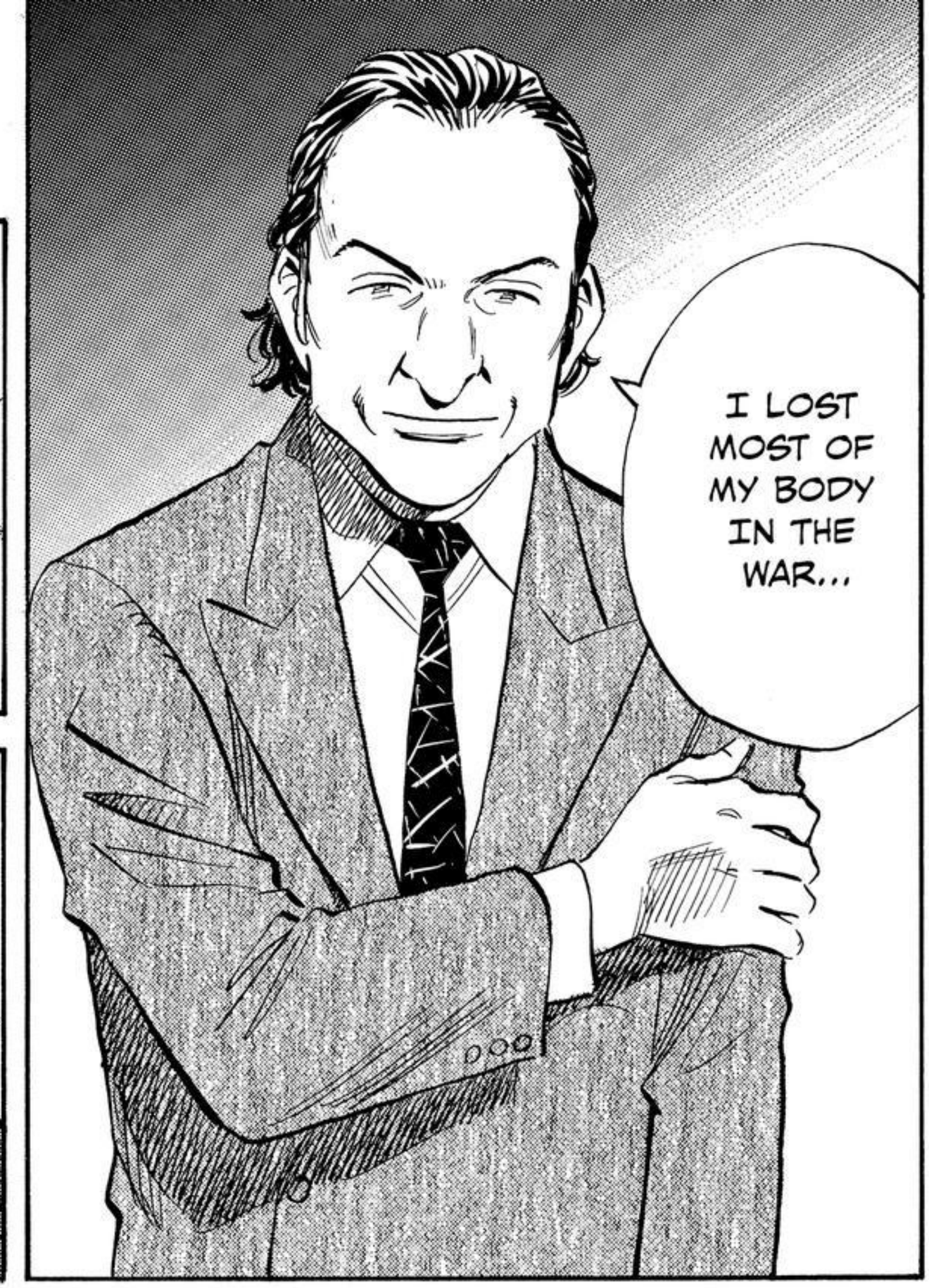
LIKE *THIS*...
HUMANS HAVE THE WEIRDEST EXPRESSIONS ON THEIR FACES...

I COULDN'T TELL IF HE WAS ROBOT OR HUMAN...

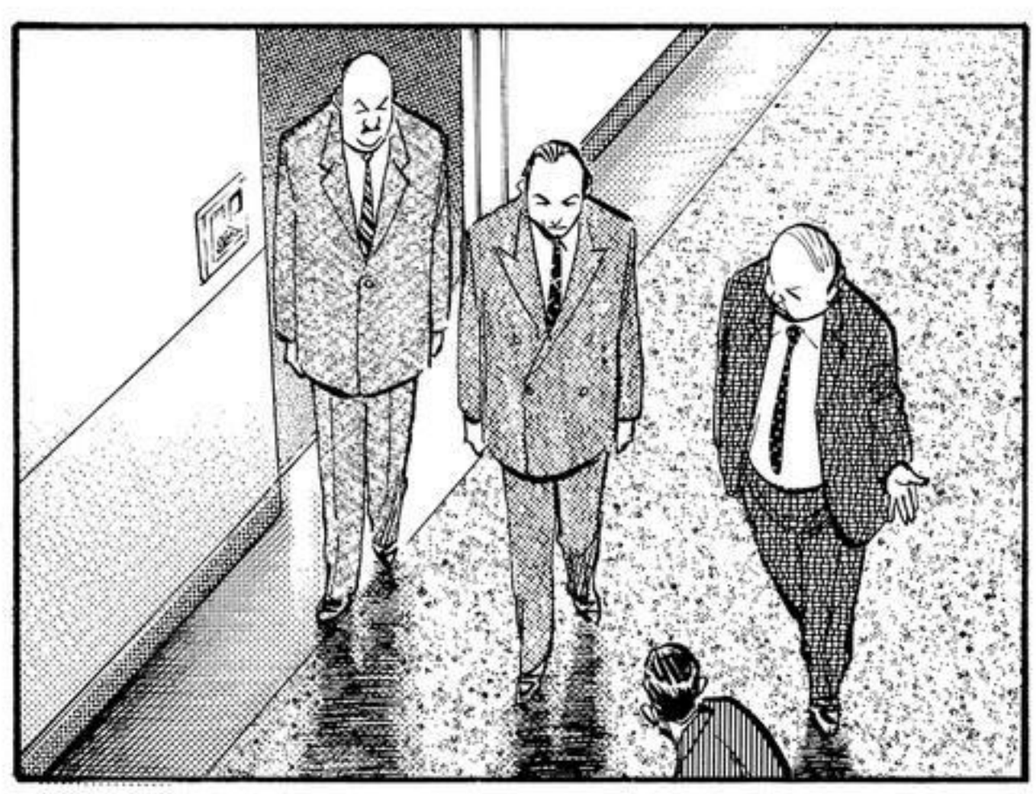




YOU WHA--?!

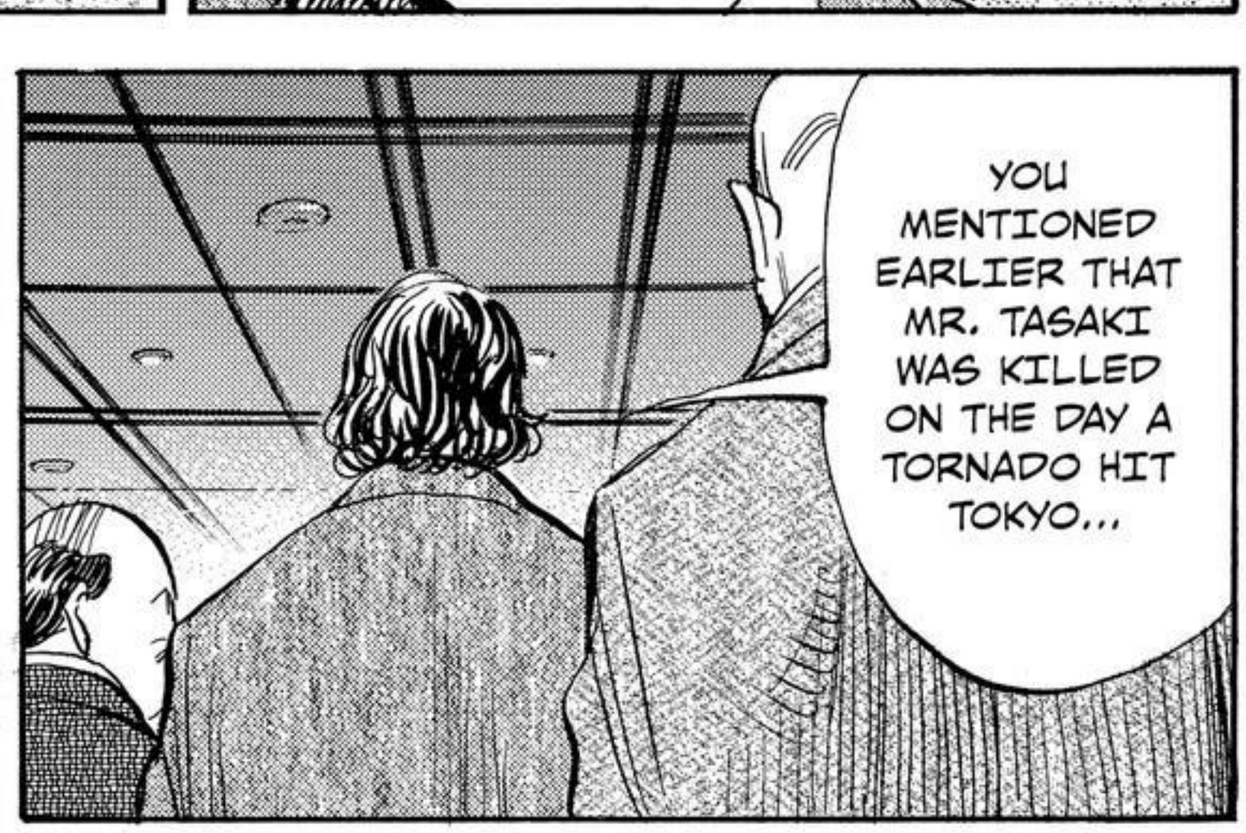

I LOST MOST OF MY BODY IN THE WAR...

S... SORRY, PROFESSOR... WE DIDN'T REALIZE...



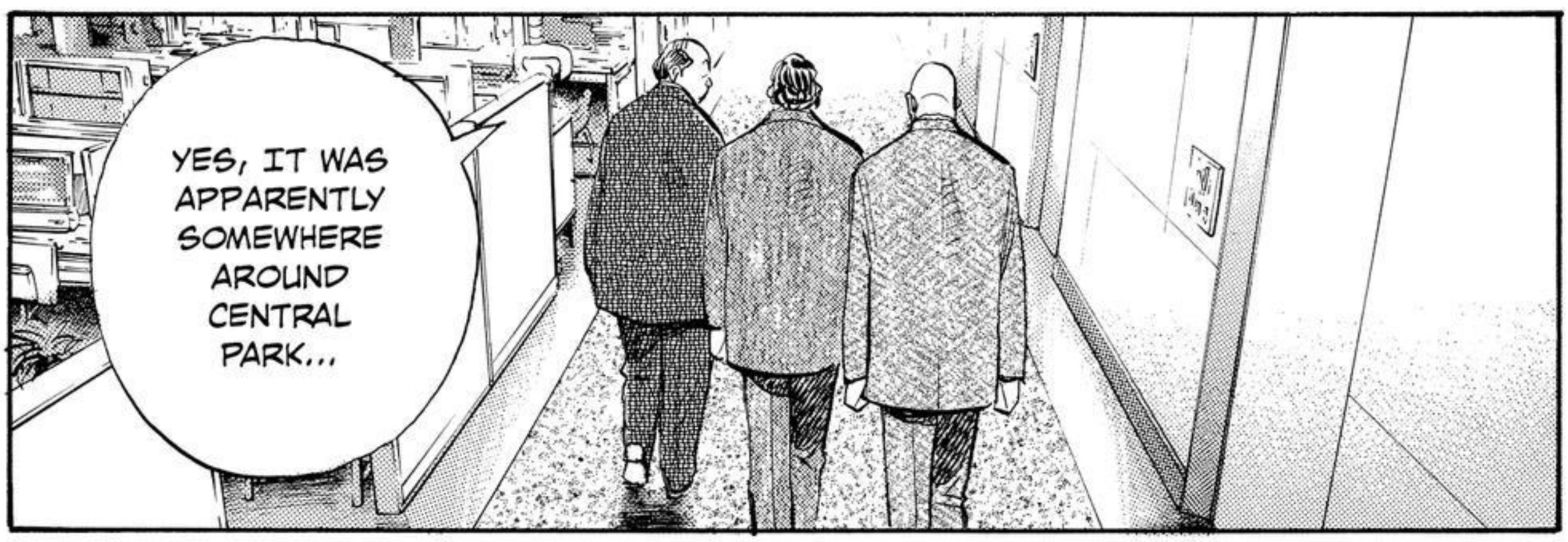
NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE, MY FRIENDS...

I HEARD THAT ANOTHER TORNADO TOUCHED DOWN IN TOKYO TODAY...


YOU MENTIONED EARLIER THAT MR. TASAKI WAS KILLED ON THE DAY A TORNADO HIT TOKYO...

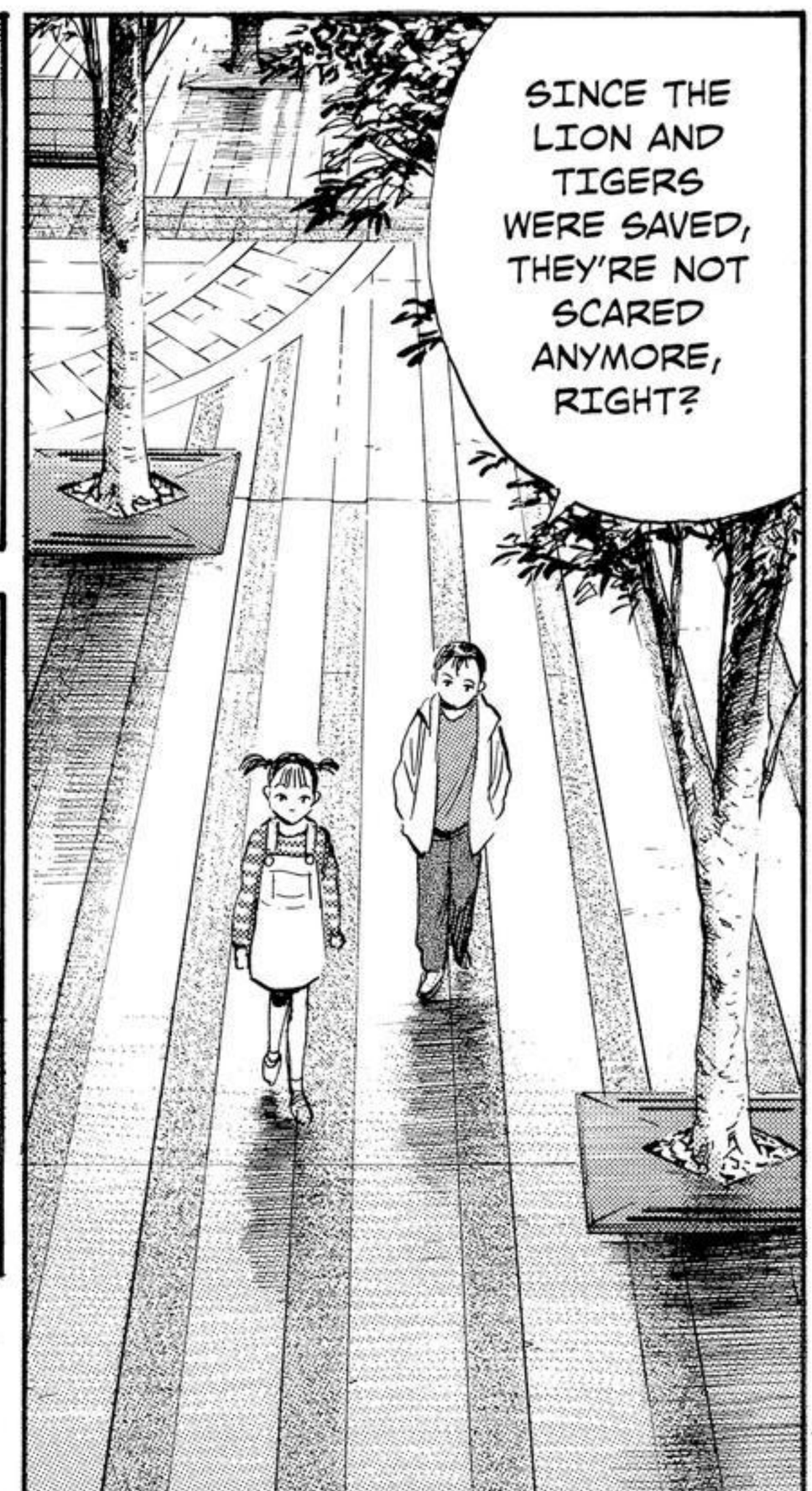
DO YOU KNOW WHERE IT LANDED?

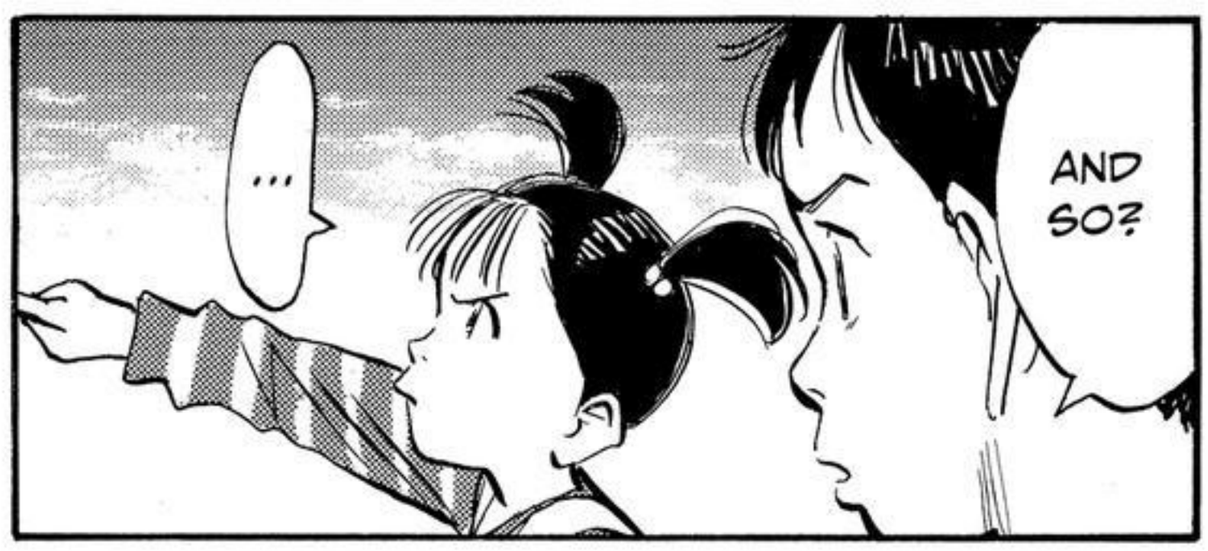
IT IS AWFULLY STRANGE WEATHER WE'RE HAVING RECENTLY...
THAT'S RIGHT...


YES, IT WAS APPARENTLY SOMEWHERE AROUND CENTRAL PARK...

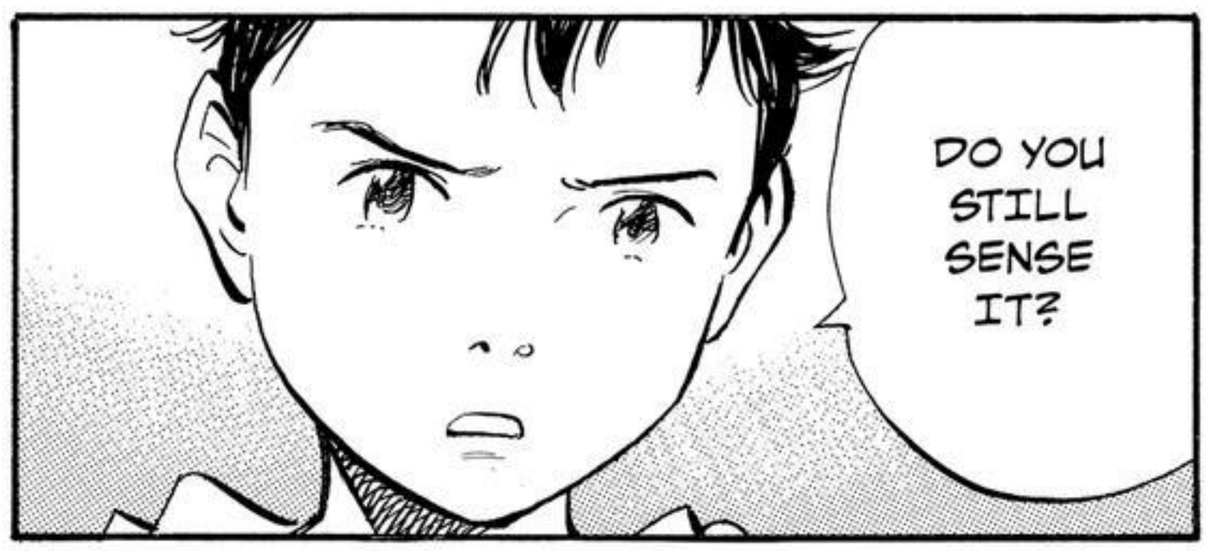
?

IT'S COMING ON AT SUPER-DUPER SPEED.
THE FEELING I'M GETTING TODAY...


SINCE THE LION AND TIGERS WERE SAVED, THEY'RE NOT SCARED ANYMORE, RIGHT?


...
AND SO?

YEAH, LIKE... WHOOSH! IT JUST CAME FLYING IN AT ME...
SUPER-DUPER SPEED?


DO YOU STILL SENSE IT?

YEAH, BUT IT'S REALLY FAINT...

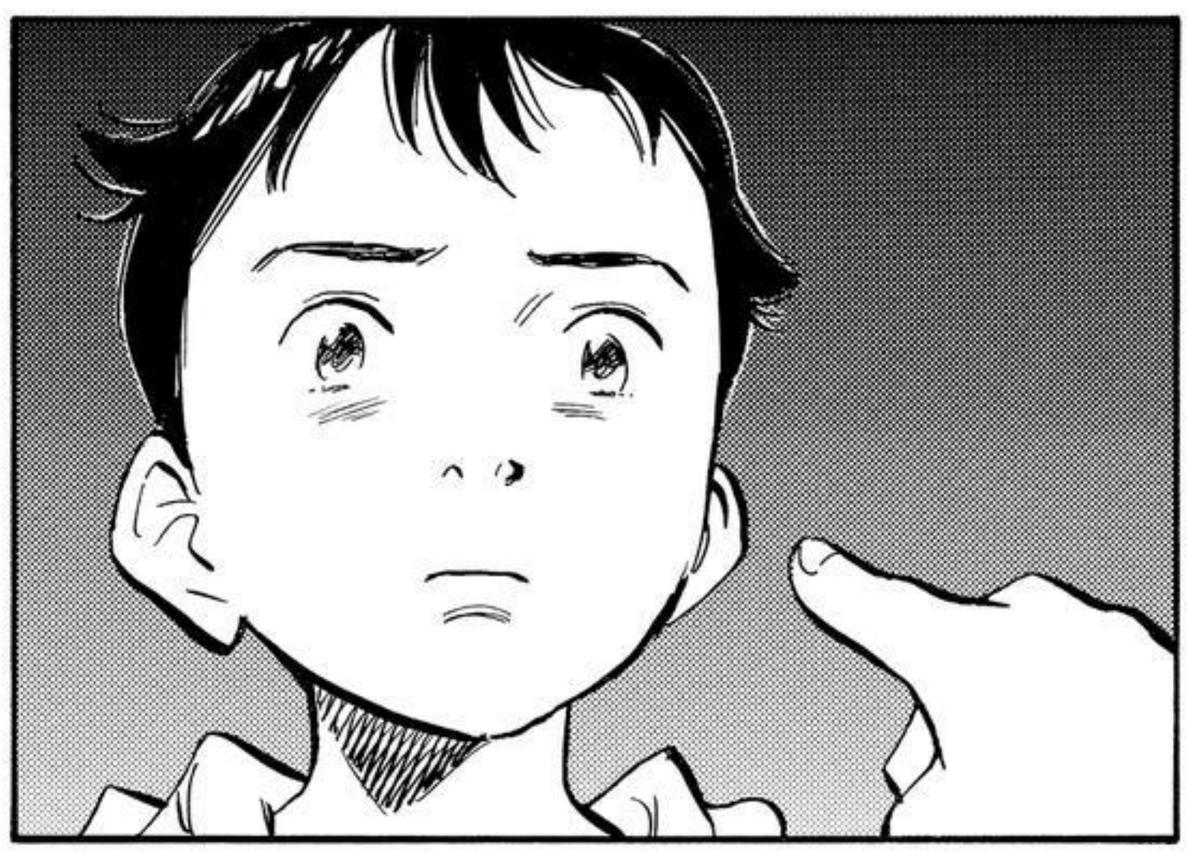
WHEN LIONS ARE REALLY SCARED, THEY TRY TO HIDE IT...
YOU KNOW WHAT, ATOM?

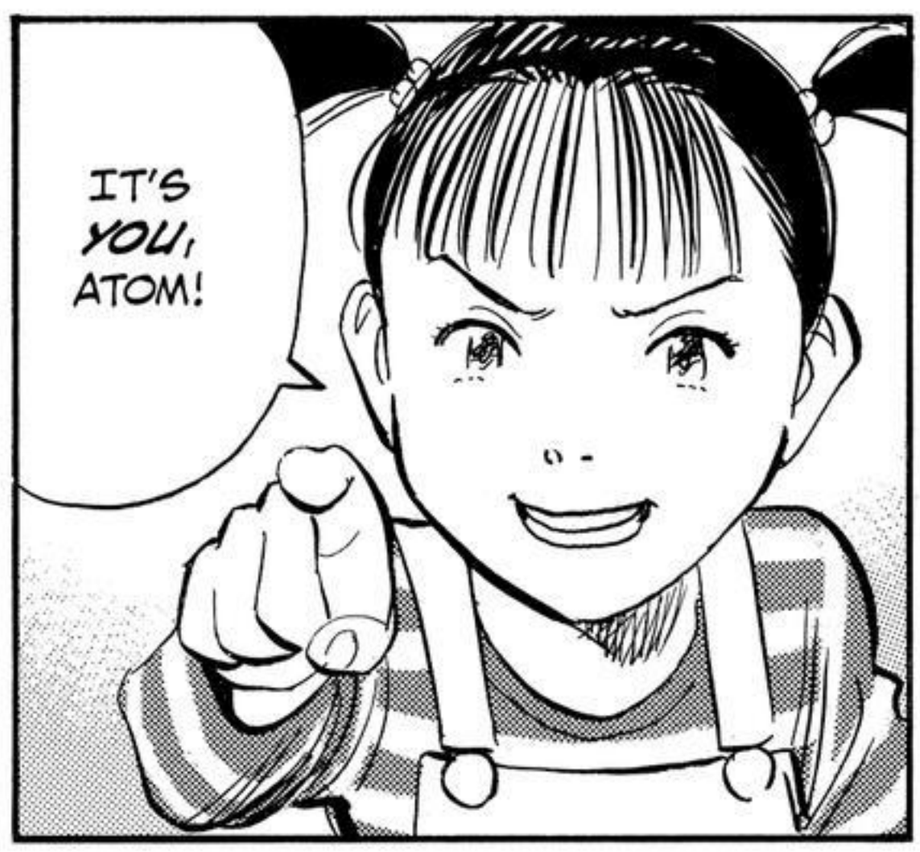
IT'S TOO WEAK TO TELL...
WHERE'S IT COMING FROM...?

BUT YOU KNOW WHO'S THE BIGGEST SCAREDY-CAT RIGHT NOW?

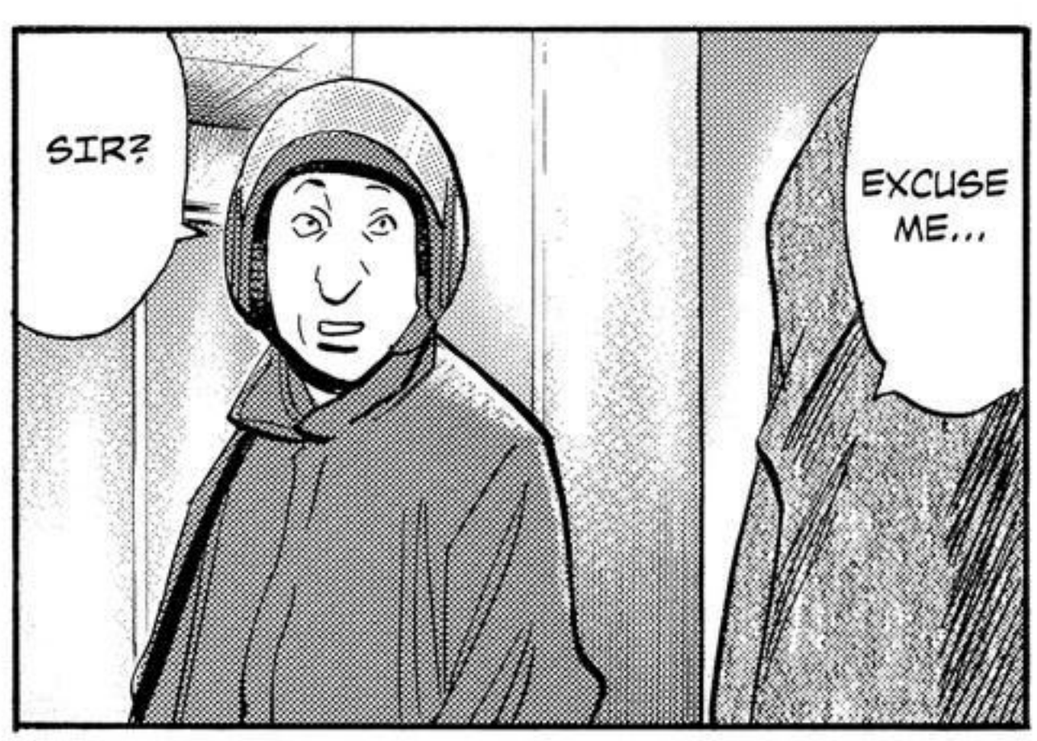
...

?



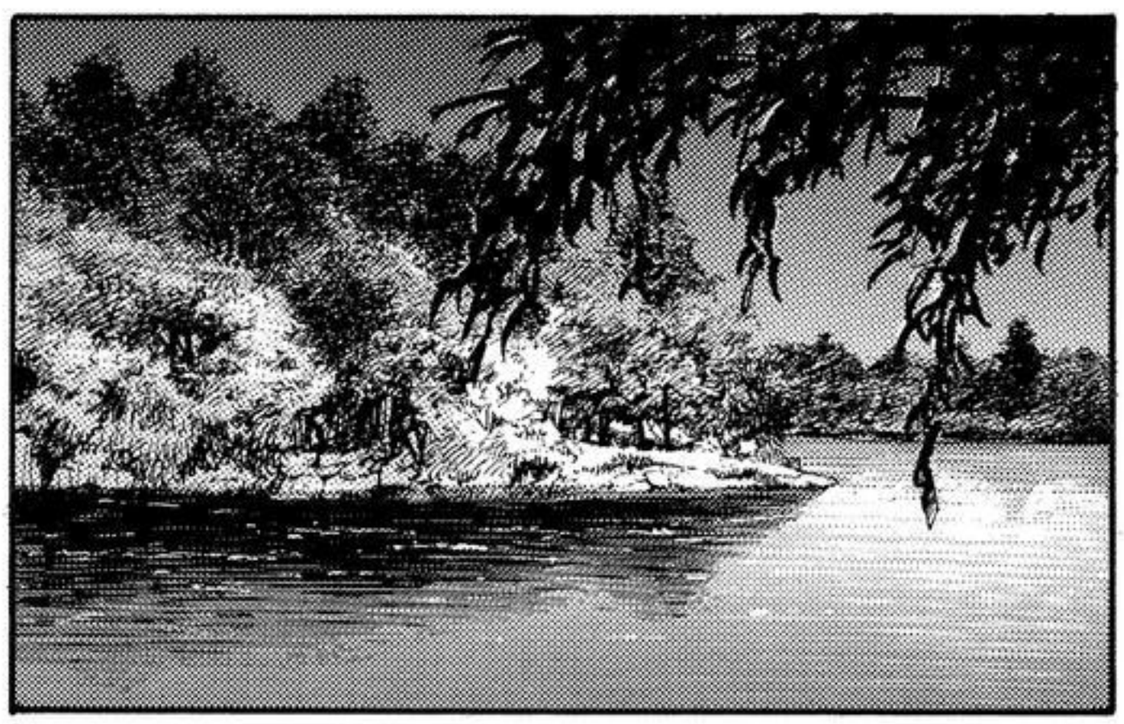

IT'S YOU, ATOM!

KLAK
KLAK

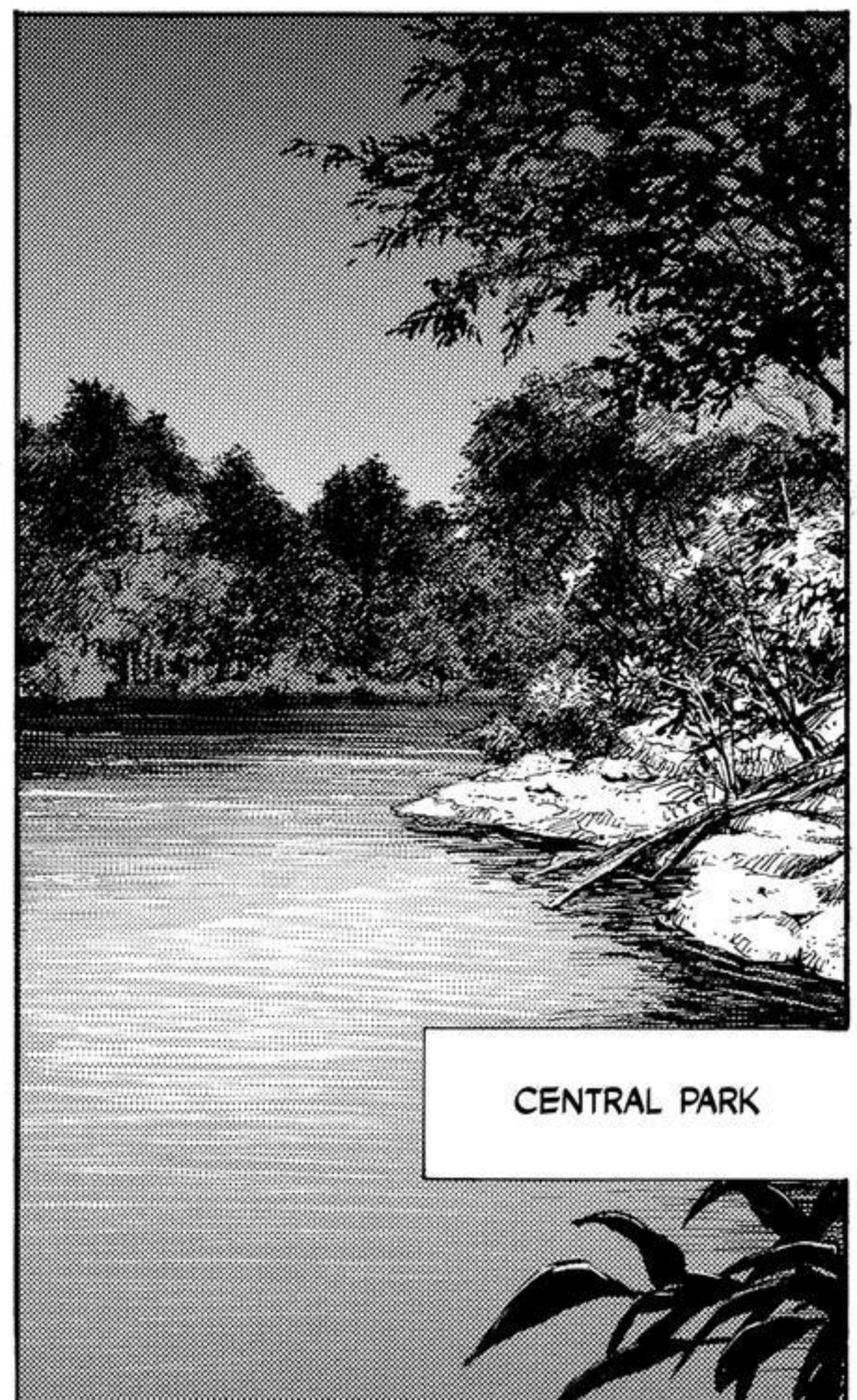

SIR?
EXCUSE ME...

HUMAN

HUMAN
CAN YOU TELL ME WHICH WAY IT IS TO CENTRAL PARK?

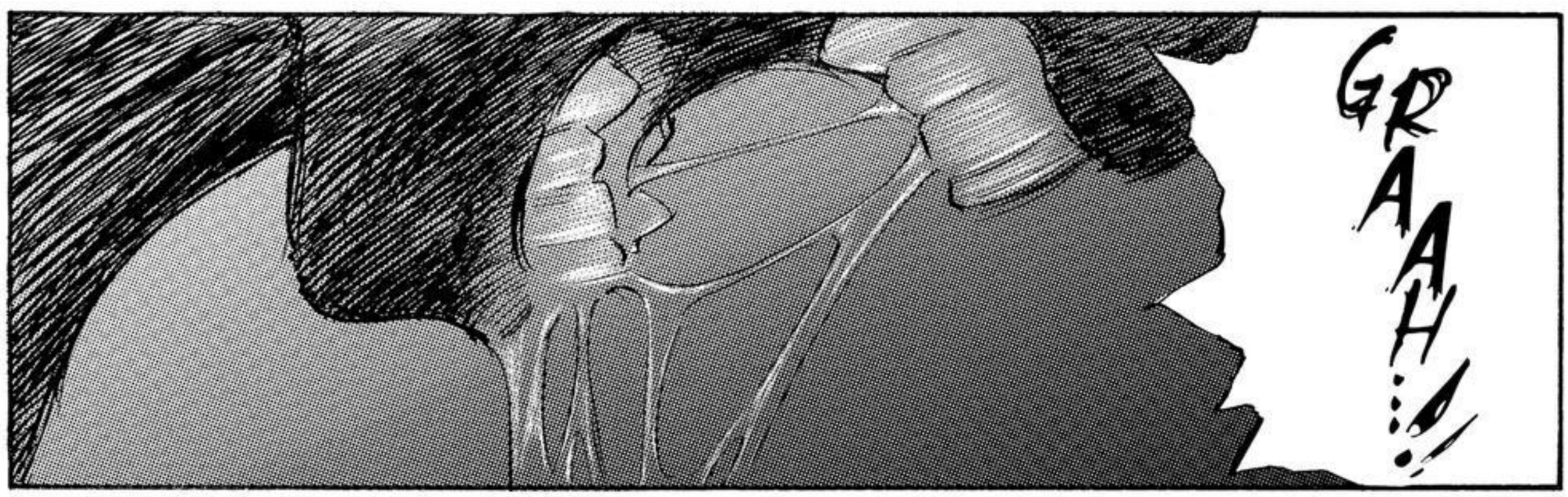


UGGH...

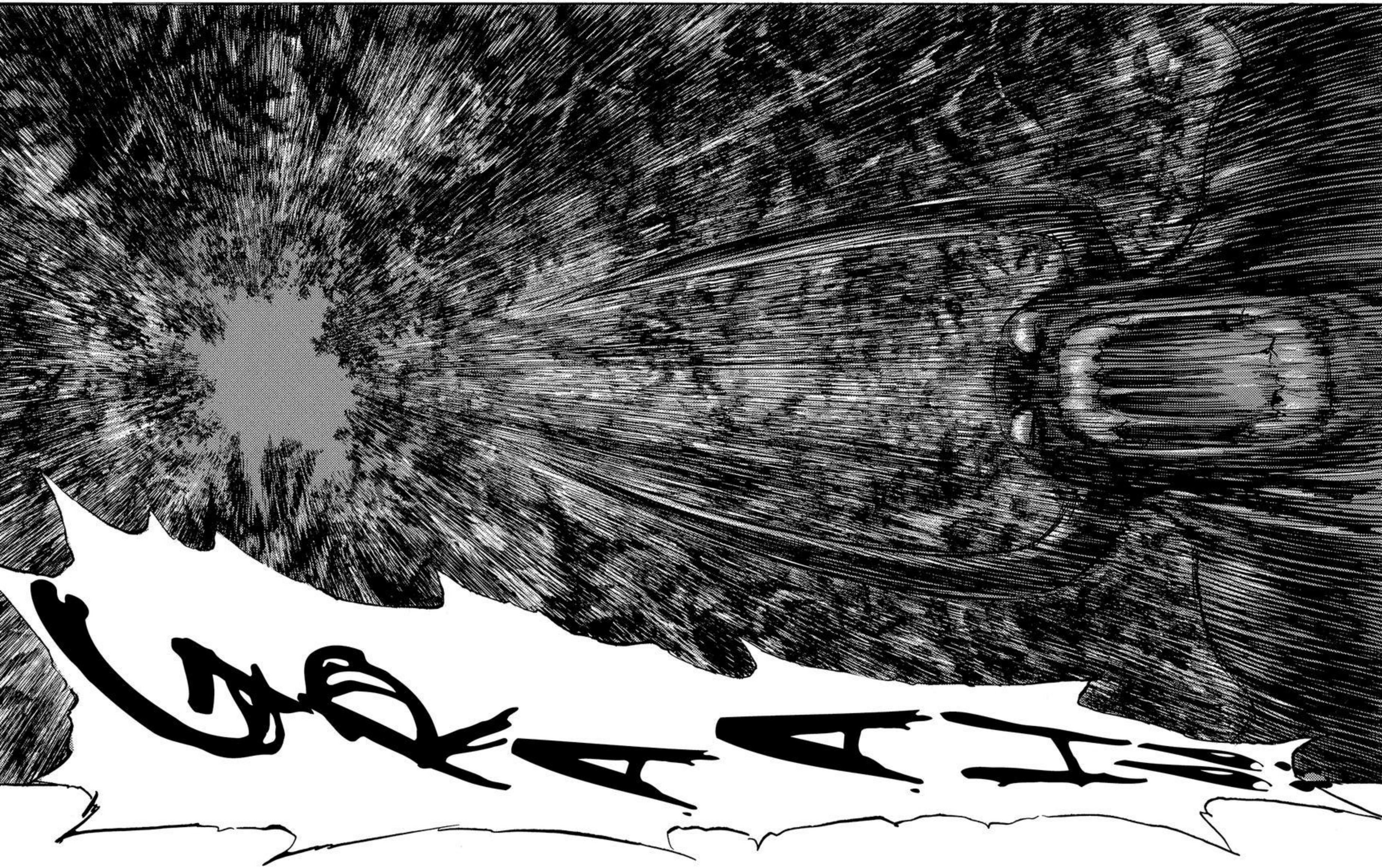

CENTRAL PARK

UGH...
SNAP
CRASH...

NNGGHHH...


GRAAH...!

CRASH
CRACKLE
URRAAAH



Act 17 DEATH TO MACHINES!!

I HOPE YOU'RE ENJOYING THIS LOVELY SUNDAY MORNING...

GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE...

DÜSSELDORF, EURO FEDERATION

AND IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE HAVING VERY NICE WEATHER THIS MORNING IN THE WESTERN PART OF GERMANY.

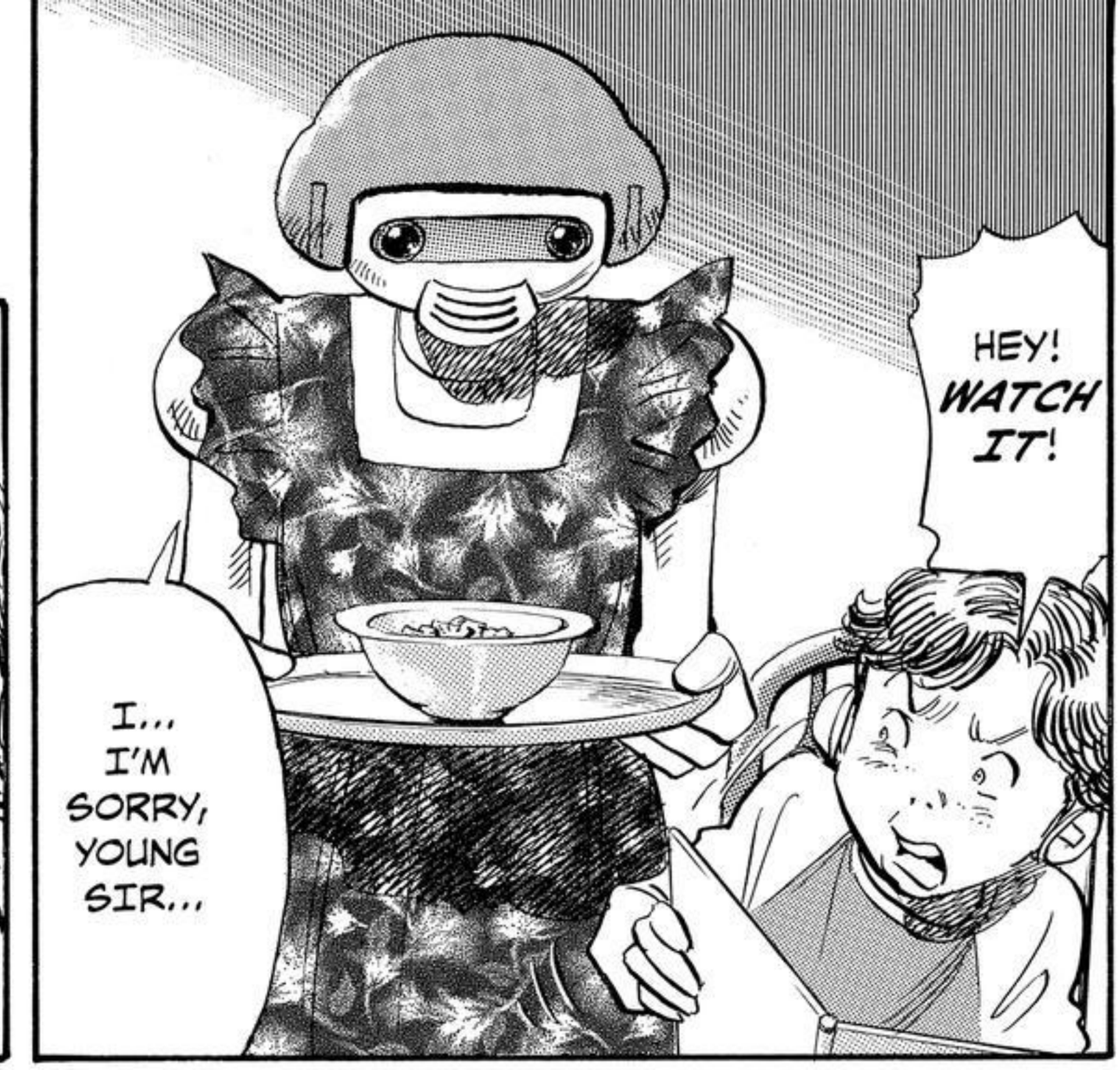
LAST NIGHT'S RAIN FINALLY ENDED...

CLATTER

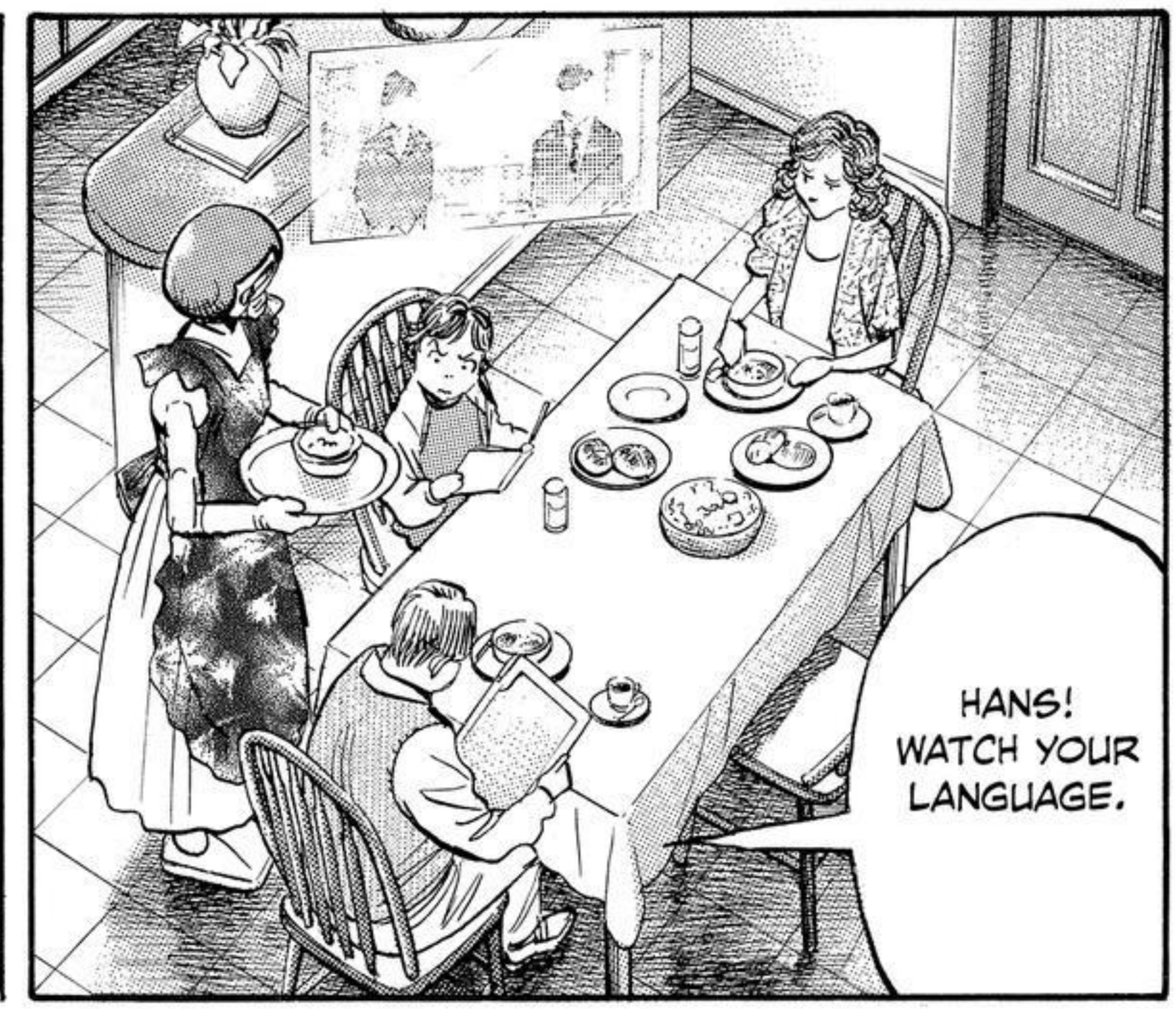
KREEK

AS YOU CAN SEE, THIS LOW-PRESSURE AREA HAS MOVED TO THE EAST, BUT A NEW COLD FRONT IS MOVING IN...

I JUST BOUGHT THIS PROGRAM YESTERDAY!! DON'T GO SPILLIN' STUFF ON IT, YOU OLD PIECE OF JUNK!!

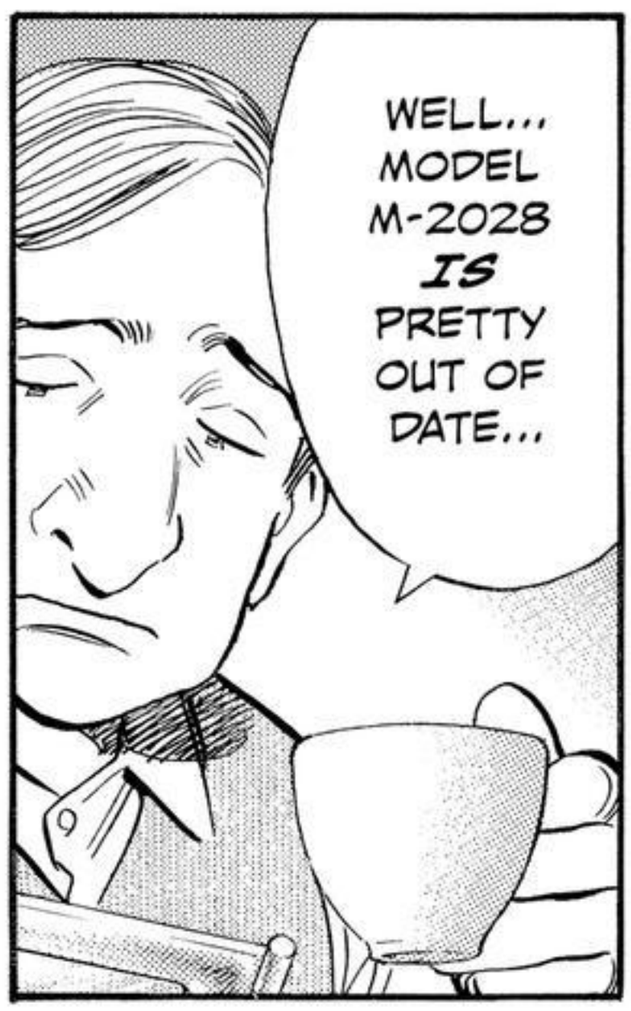

HEY! WATCH IT!
I... I'M SORRY, YOUNG SIR...

WELL, IF JUNK'S A BAD WORD, HOW 'BOUT SCRAP, THEN?! YOU KNOW, SHE GOT MY AIR SCOOTER ALL WET THE OTHER DAY, TOO...


HANS! WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE.

BESIDES, I DISAPPROVE OF FOUL LANGUAGE.
OUR ROBOMAID'S WORKING AS HARD AS SHE CAN.

HANS!!
!!


WELL... MODEL M-2028 IS PRETTY OUT OF DATE...

CLATTER CLATTER
MAYBE IT'S TIME WE TRADED HER IN...

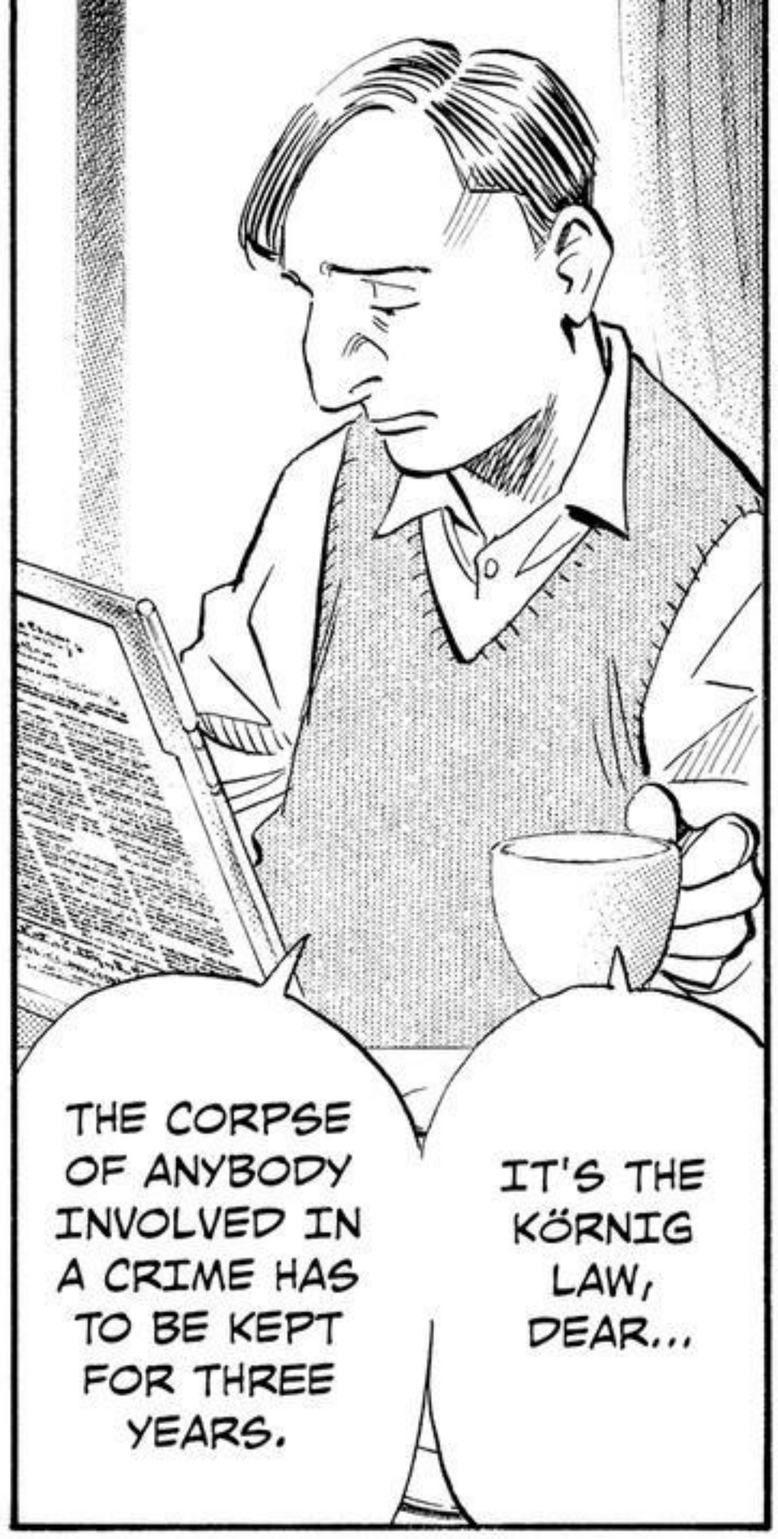
YES, SIR...

WELL, I'VE GOT A MEETING I'VE GOT TO ATTEND...
OH, YEAH...

PLANS?
WHAT'RE YOUR PLANS FOR TODAY, DEAR?

HANS AND I ARE GOING TO CHURCH...

IT'S THE ANNIVERSARY OF YOUR BROTHER'S DEATH, YOU KNOW...
HOW ABOUT COMING WITH US TO CHURCH FOR ONCE?

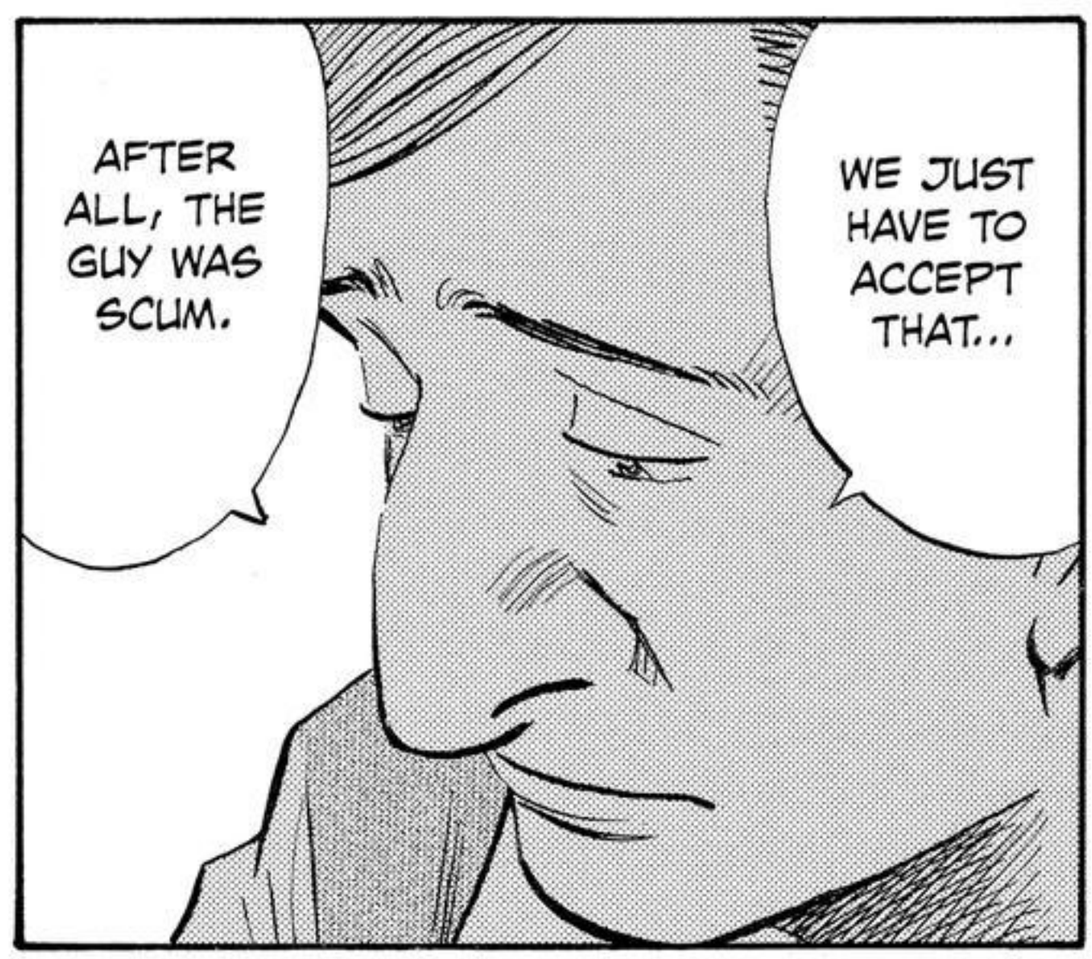

THE CORPSE OF ANYBODY INVOLVED IN A CRIME HAS TO BE KEPT FOR THREE YEARS.
IT'S THE KÖRNIG LAW, DEAR...

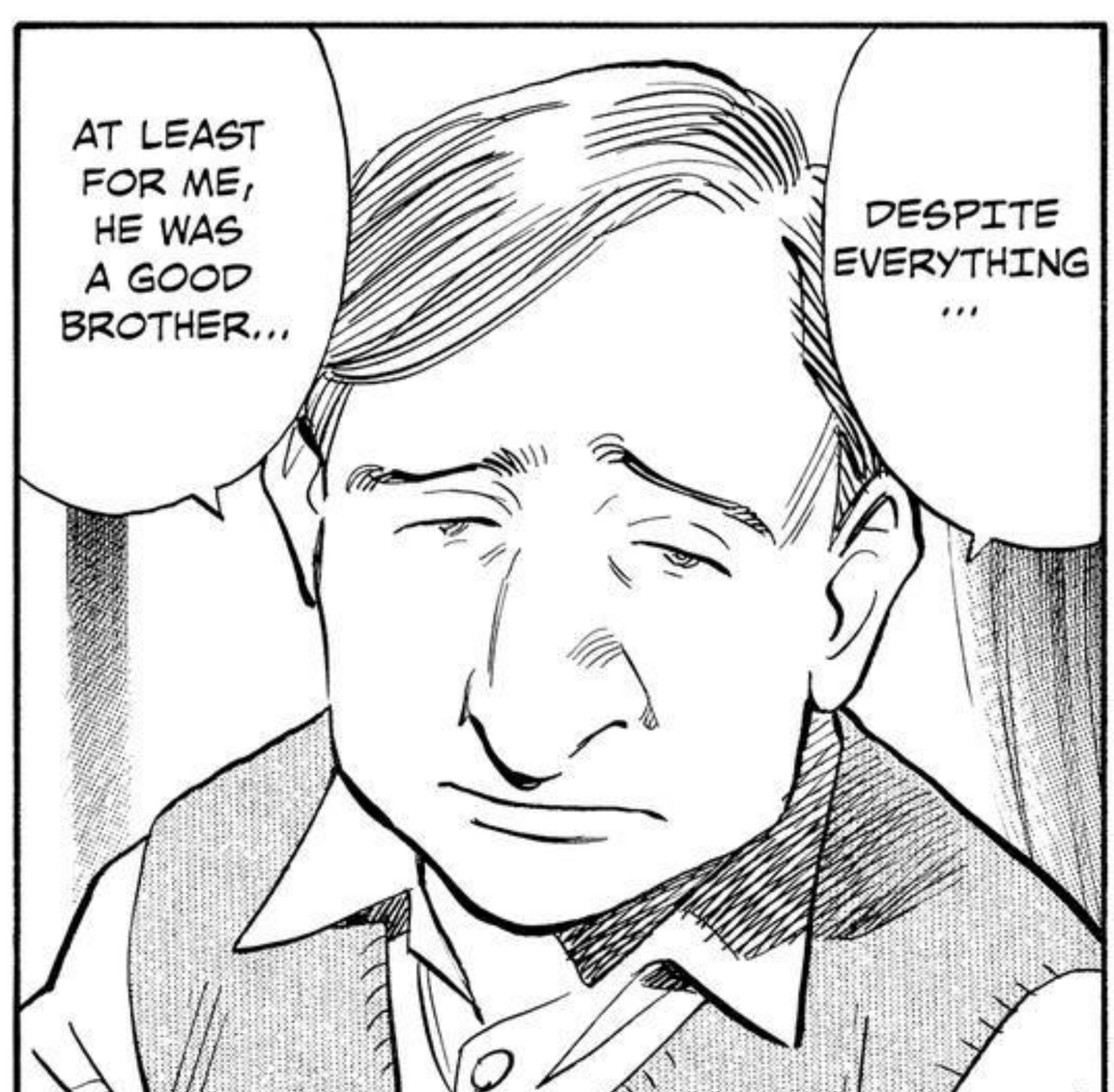
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THEY WOULDN'T LET YOU HAVE IT FOR THREE YEARS...

ARE YOU GOING TO CLAIM HIS BODY...?

I'LL GO AND GET IT AFTER THE MEETING.
I GUESS SO... THE THREE YEARS ARE UP.

...


AFTER ALL, THE GUY WAS SCUM.
WE JUST HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT...

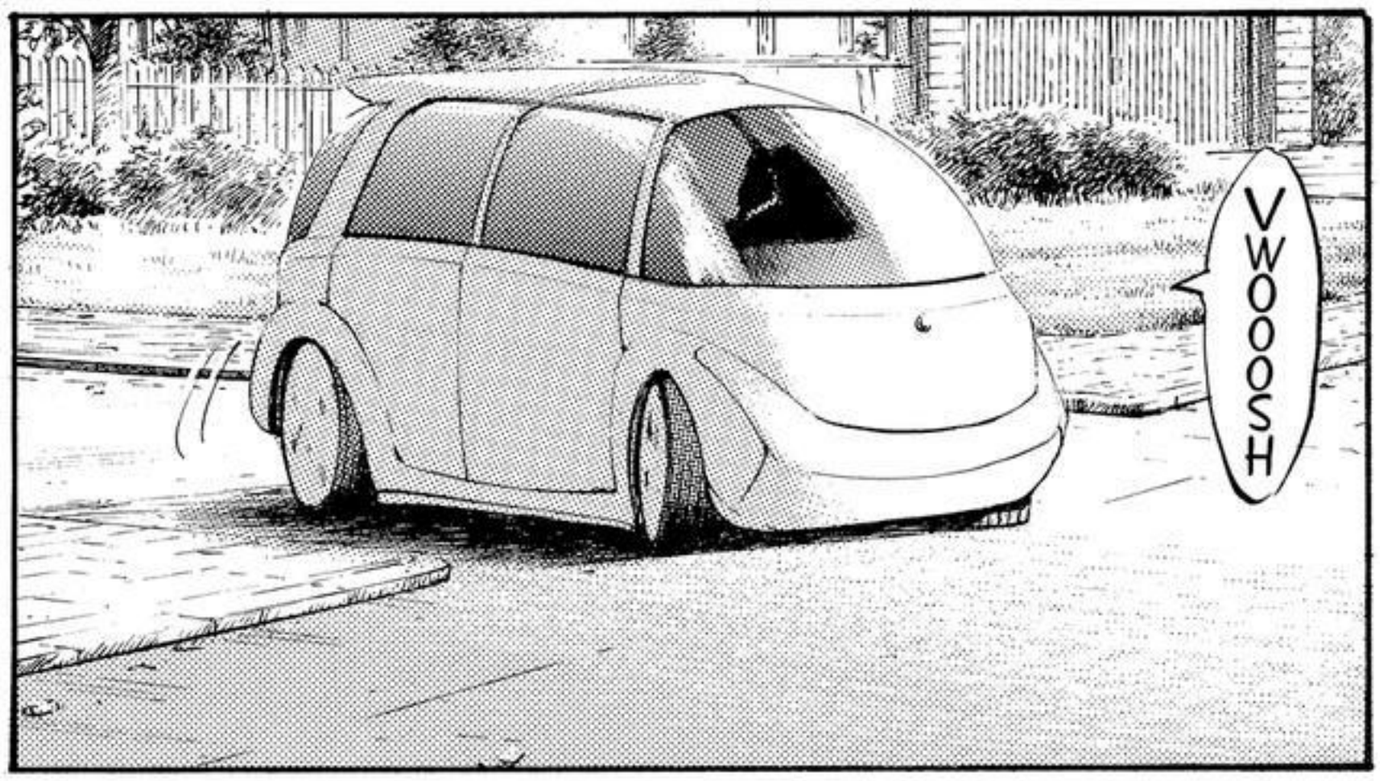

AT LEAST FOR ME, HE WAS A GOOD BROTHER...
DESPITE EVERYTHING ...

STILL...

WE'LL I'D BETTER GET GOING.

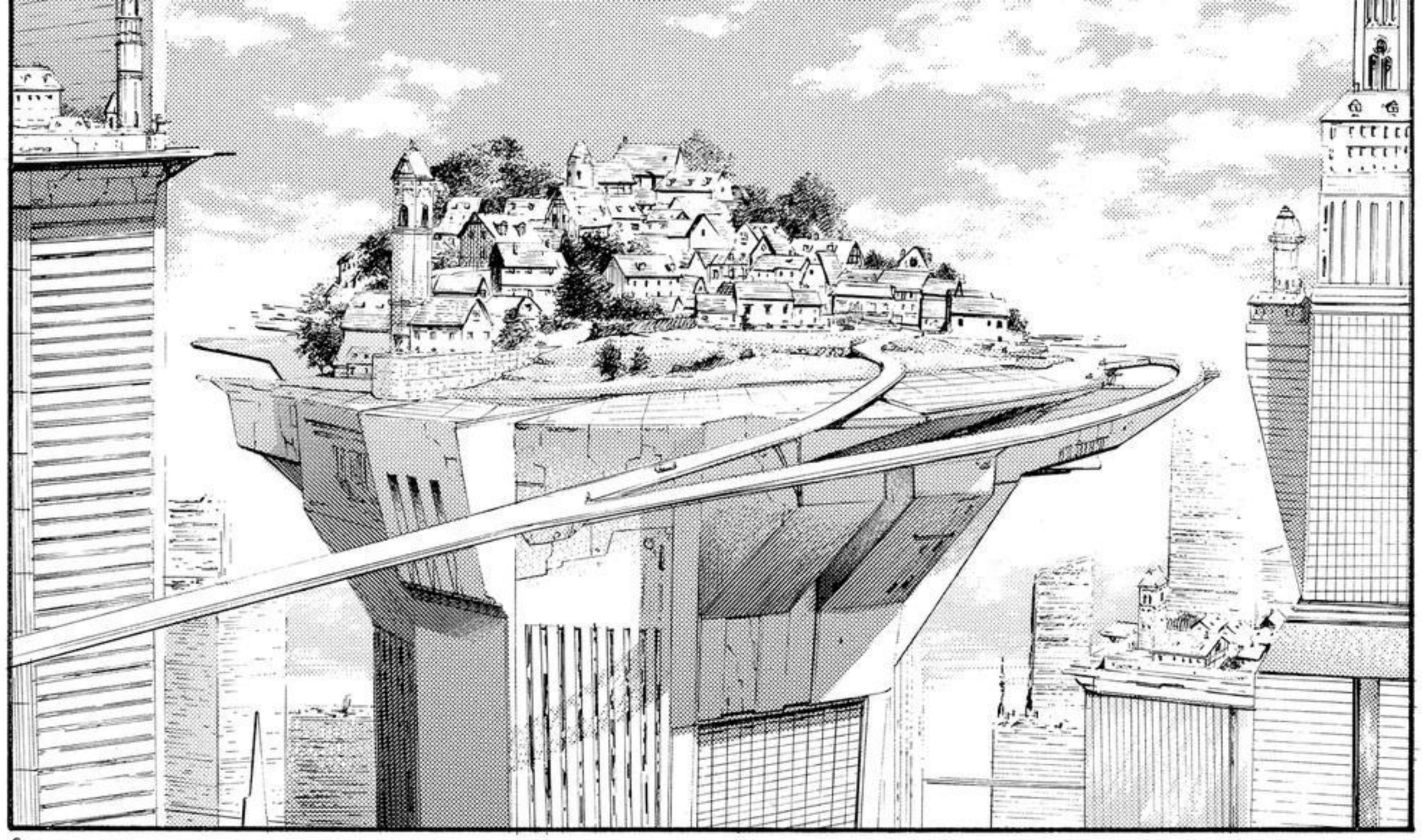
I'D LIKE TO GIVE HIM A PROPER BURIAL TODAY...
REGARDLESS OF WHAT KIND OF MAN HE WAS...

PLEASE STATE YOUR DESTINATION.

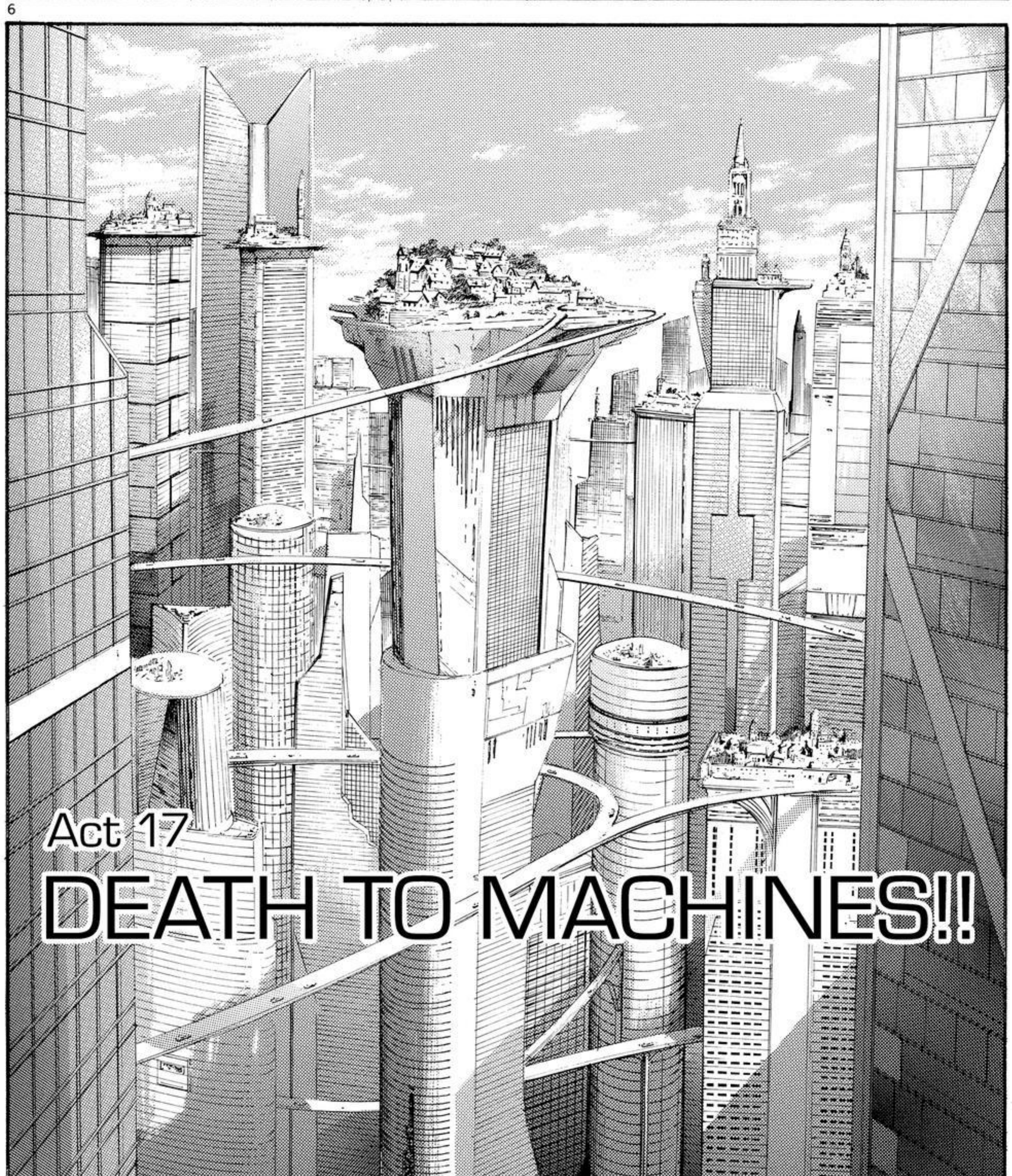

VWOOOSH

SURE.

THE MEETING PLACE.
THE USUAL COURSE, SIR?

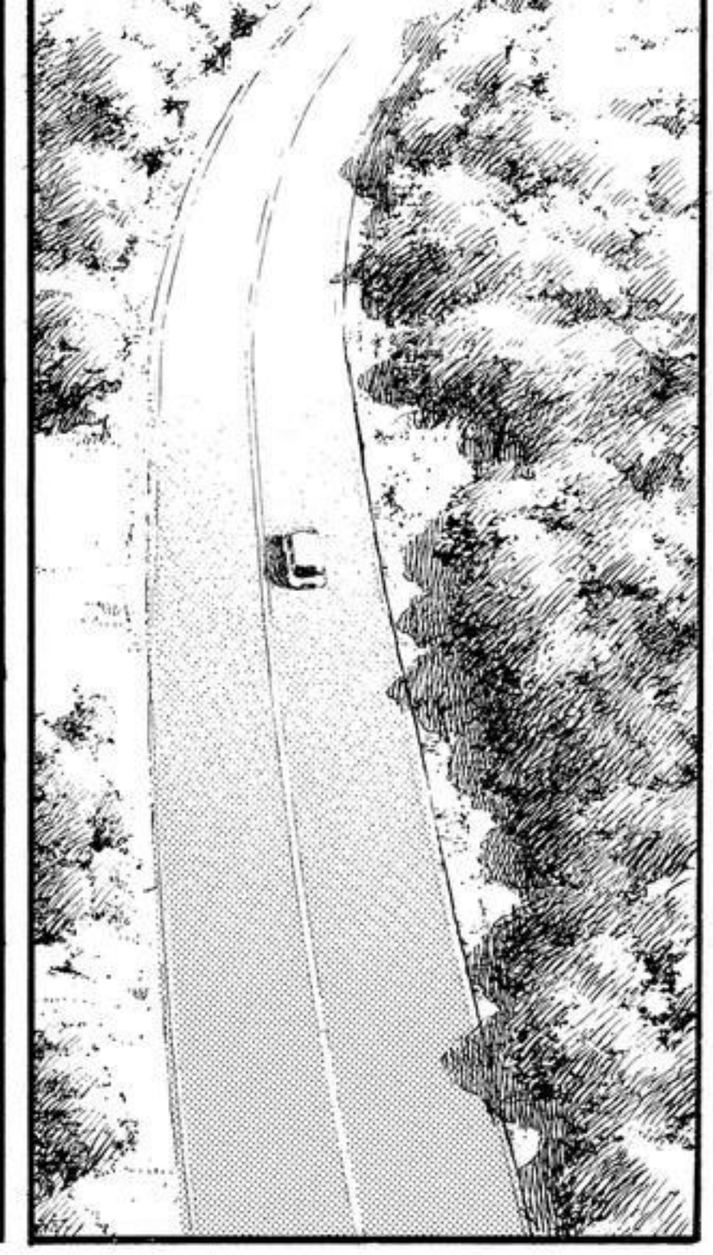


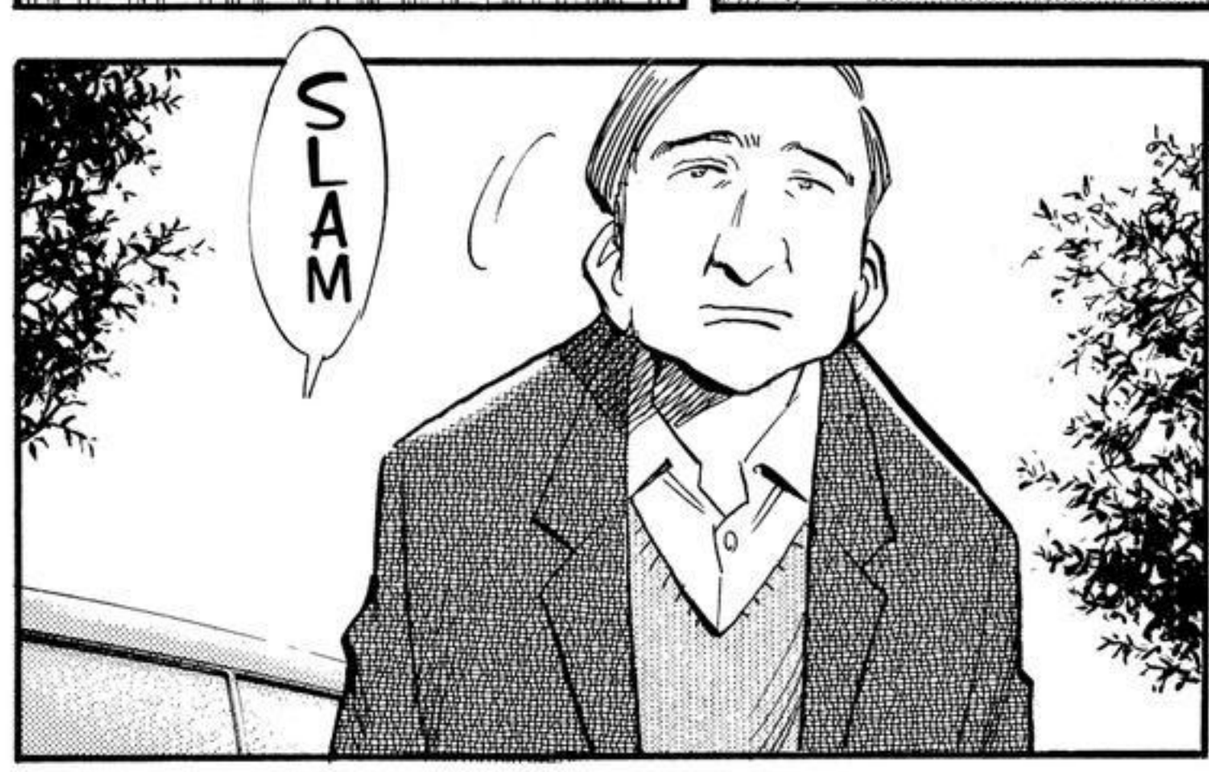
6

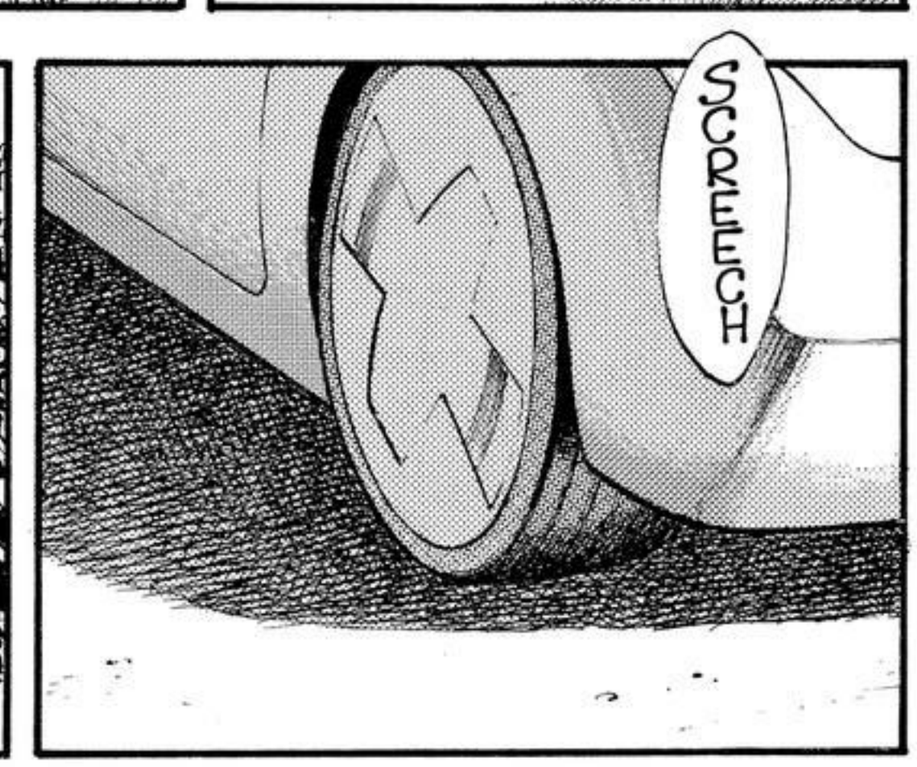


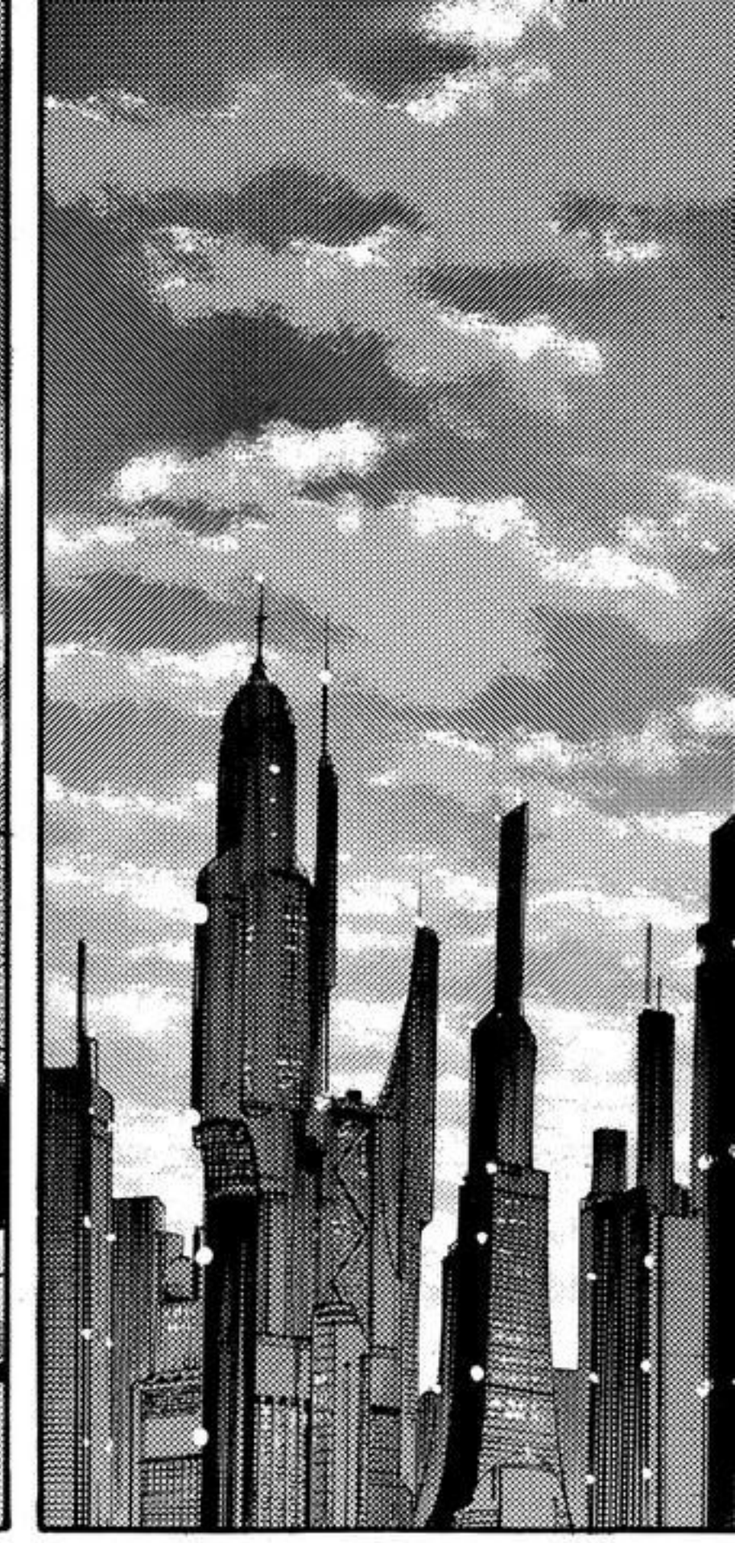
Act 17

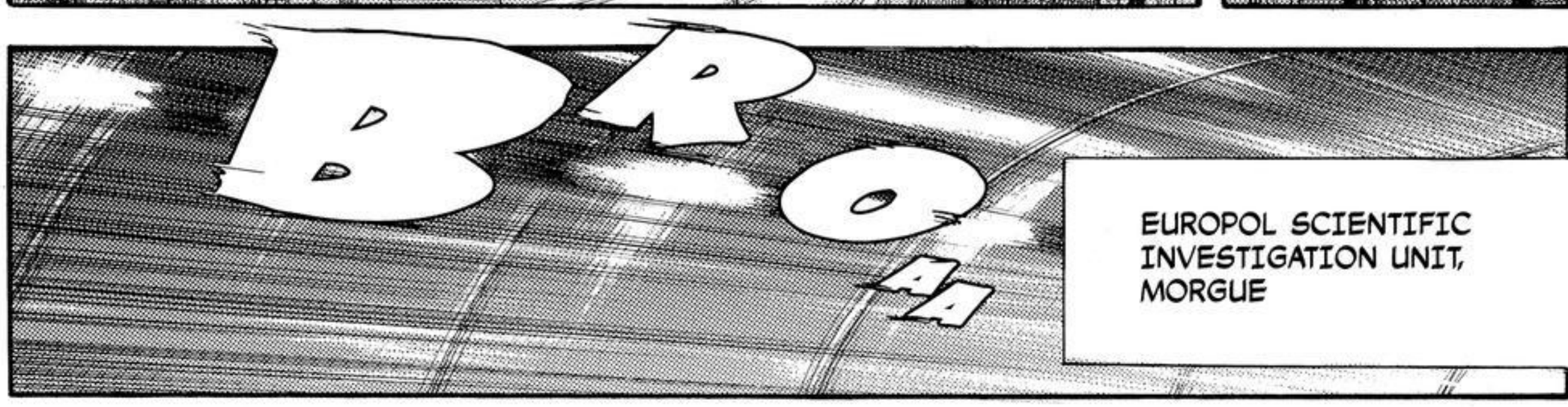
DEATH TO MACHINES!!



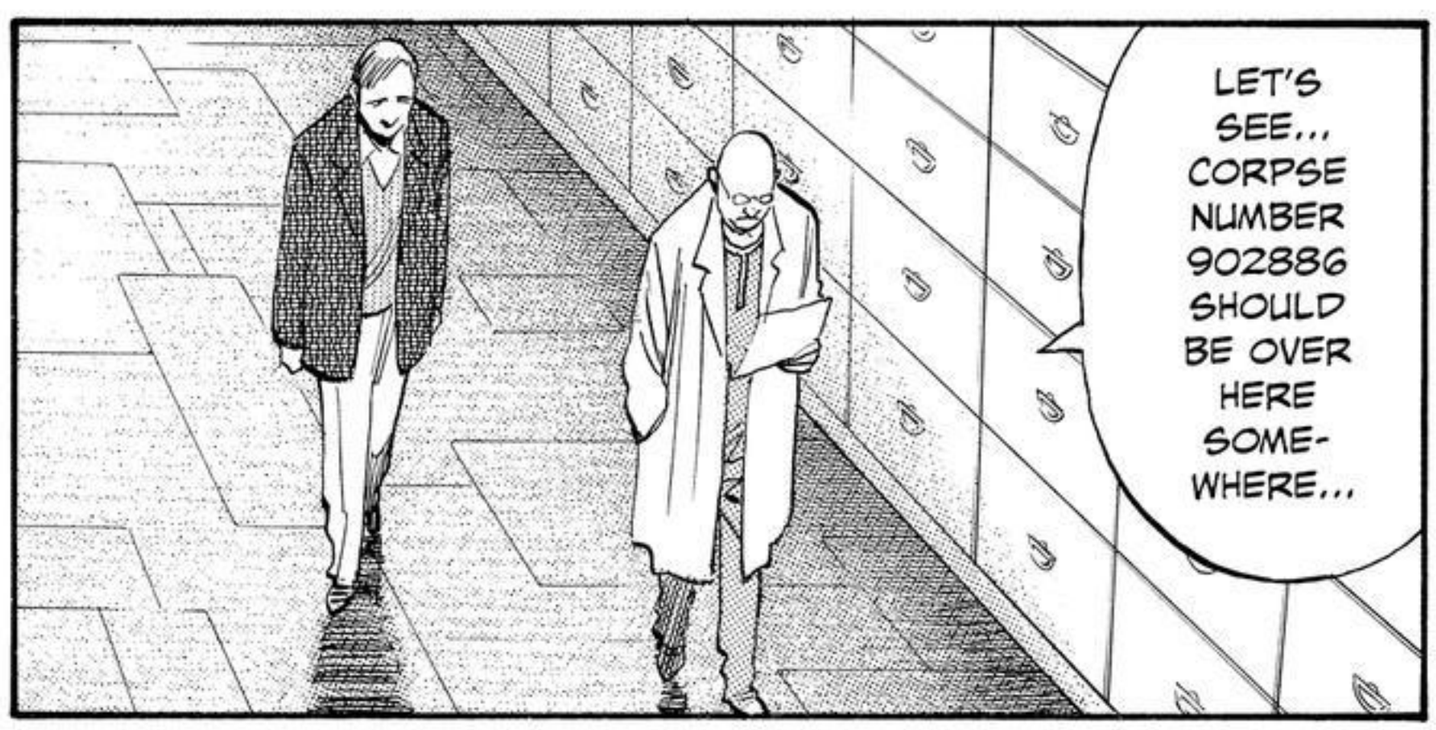

SLAM

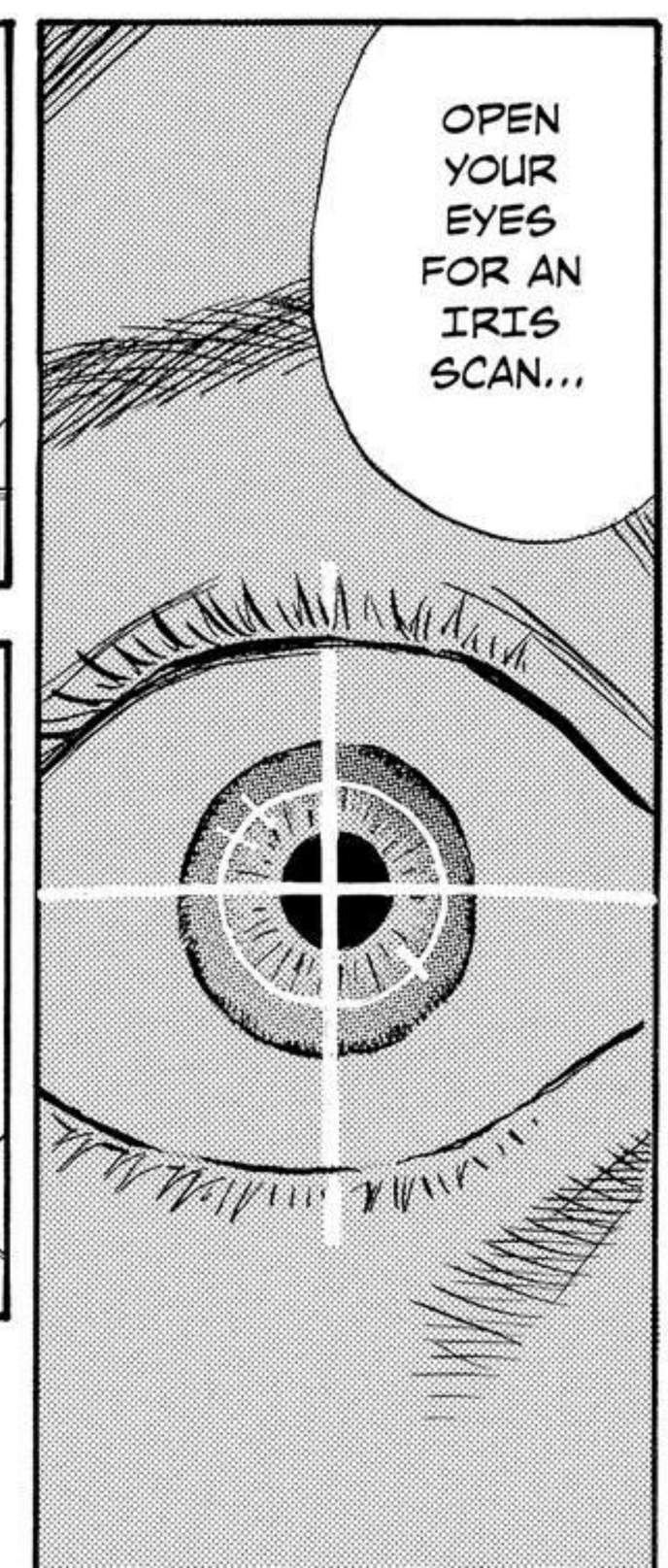

SCREECH




BROOM
EUROPOL SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION UNIT, MORGUE

THANK YOU, THAT'LL DO...


LET'S SEE... CORPSE NUMBER 902886 SHOULD BE OVER HERE SOME-WHERE...


OPEN YOUR EYES FOR AN IRIS SCAN...

WHIRR

BEEP

BLIP
BLIP

AND NOW, WE HEREBY RETURN IT TO YOU. WILL YOU OFFICIALLY ACCEPT IT?

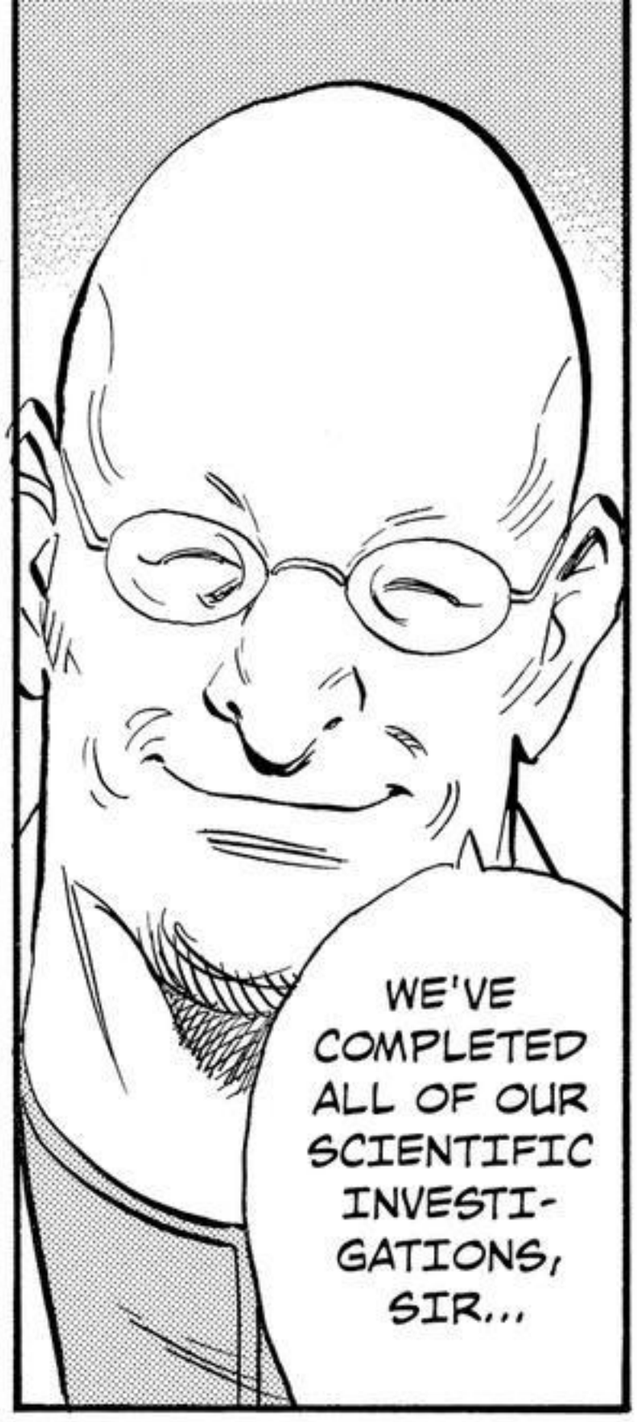
YES...

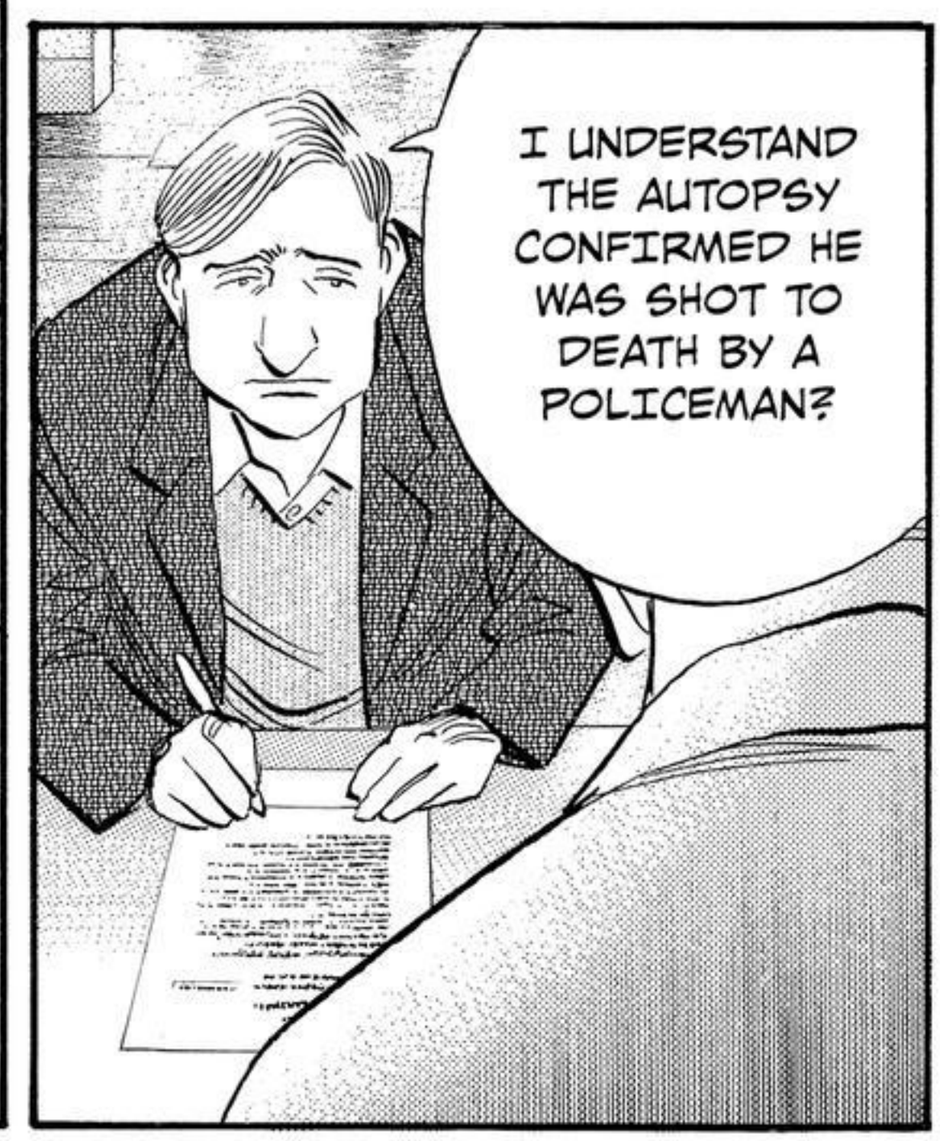
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE KÖRNIG LAW, WE'VE KEPT THE BODY FOR THREE YEARS...

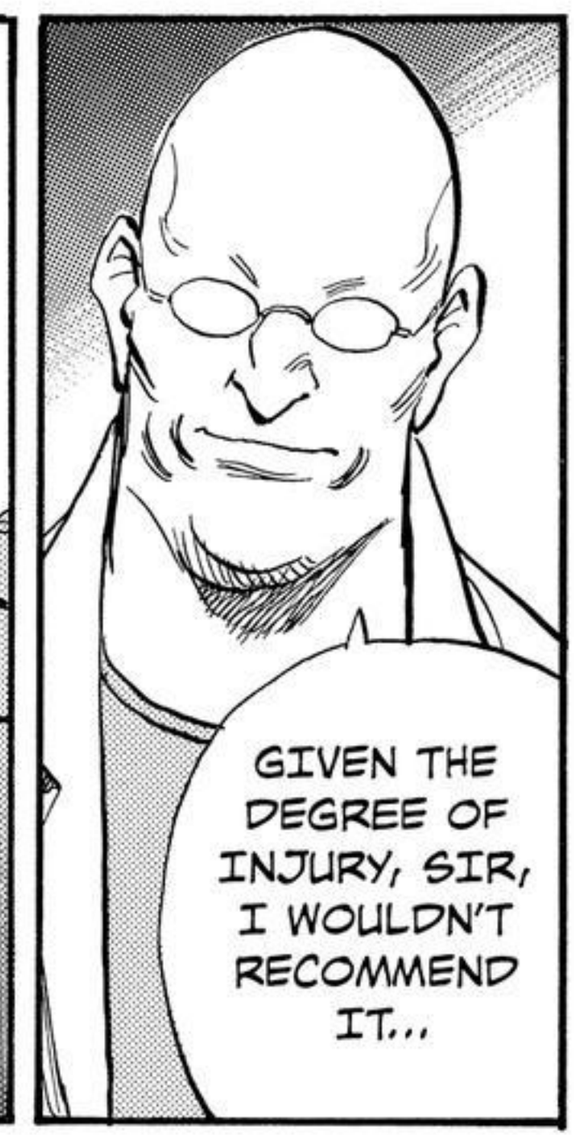
DON'T YOU NEED ME TO LOOK AT MY BROTHER'S BODY...?

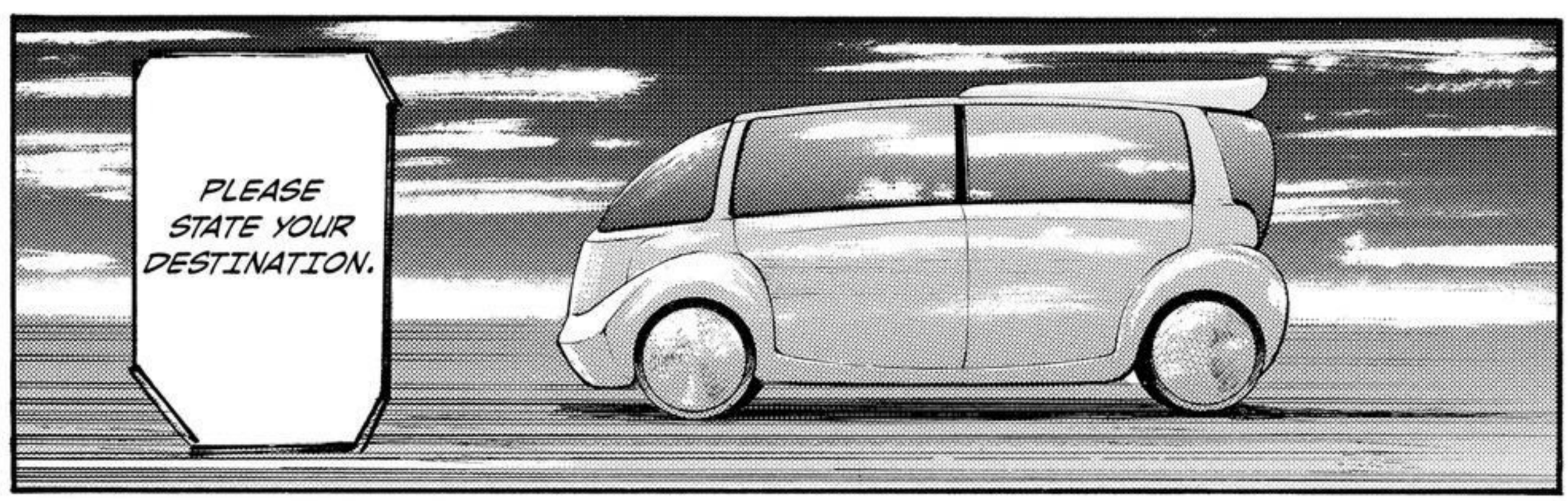
UM...

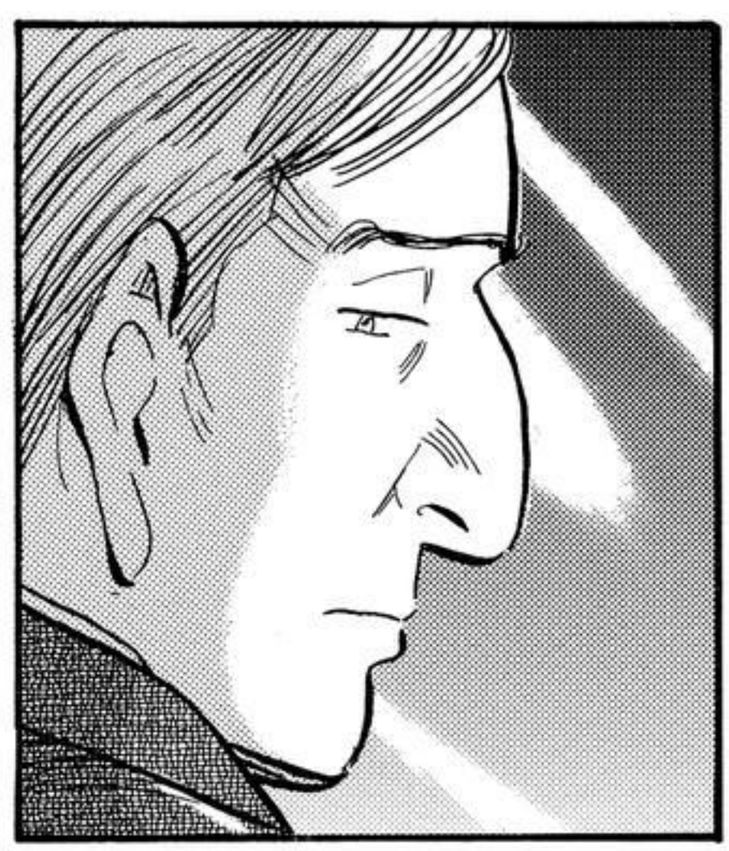
GOOD. JUST SIGN HERE...


WE'VE COMPLETED ALL OF OUR SCIENTIFIC INVESTI-GATIONS, SIR...

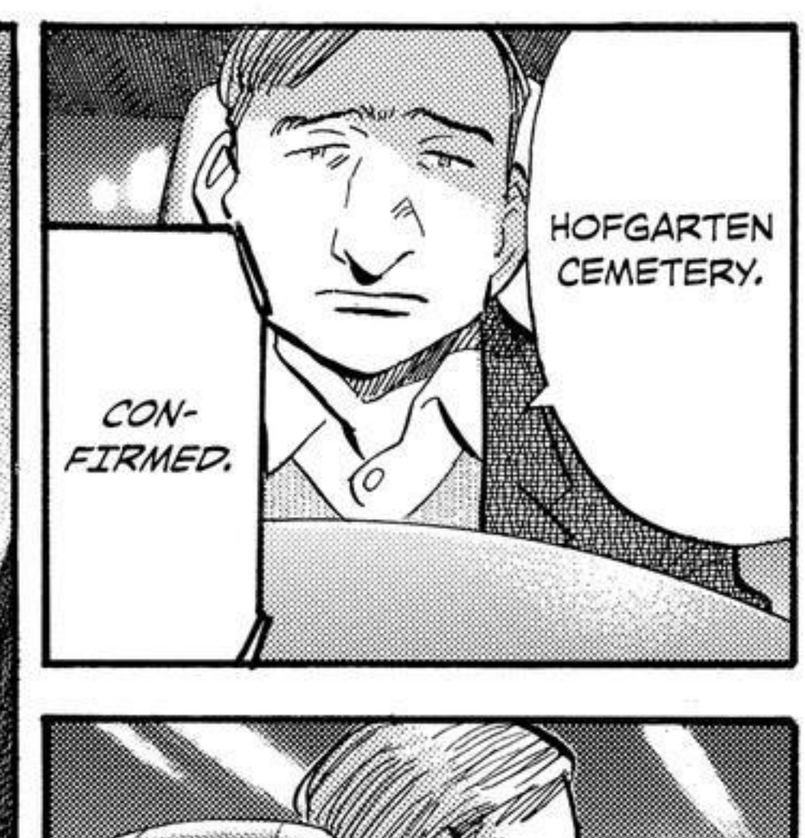

I UNDERSTAND THE AUTOPSY CONFIRMED HE WAS SHOT TO DEATH BY A POLICEMAN?

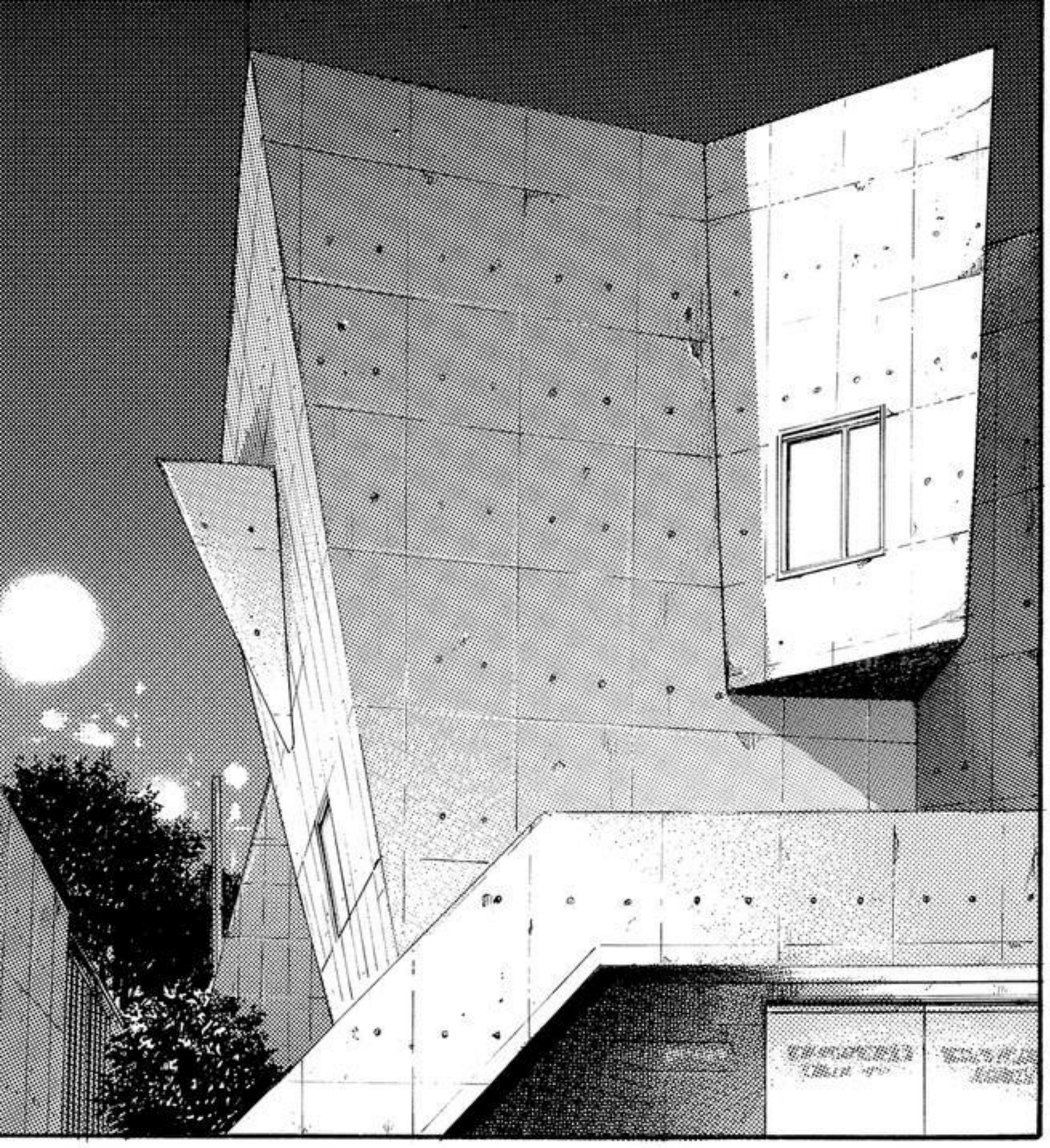

GIVEN THE DEGREE OF INJURY, SIR, I WOULDN'T RECOMMEND IT...


PLEASE STATE YOUR DESTINATION.



SCRATCH THAT... NEW DESTINATION.

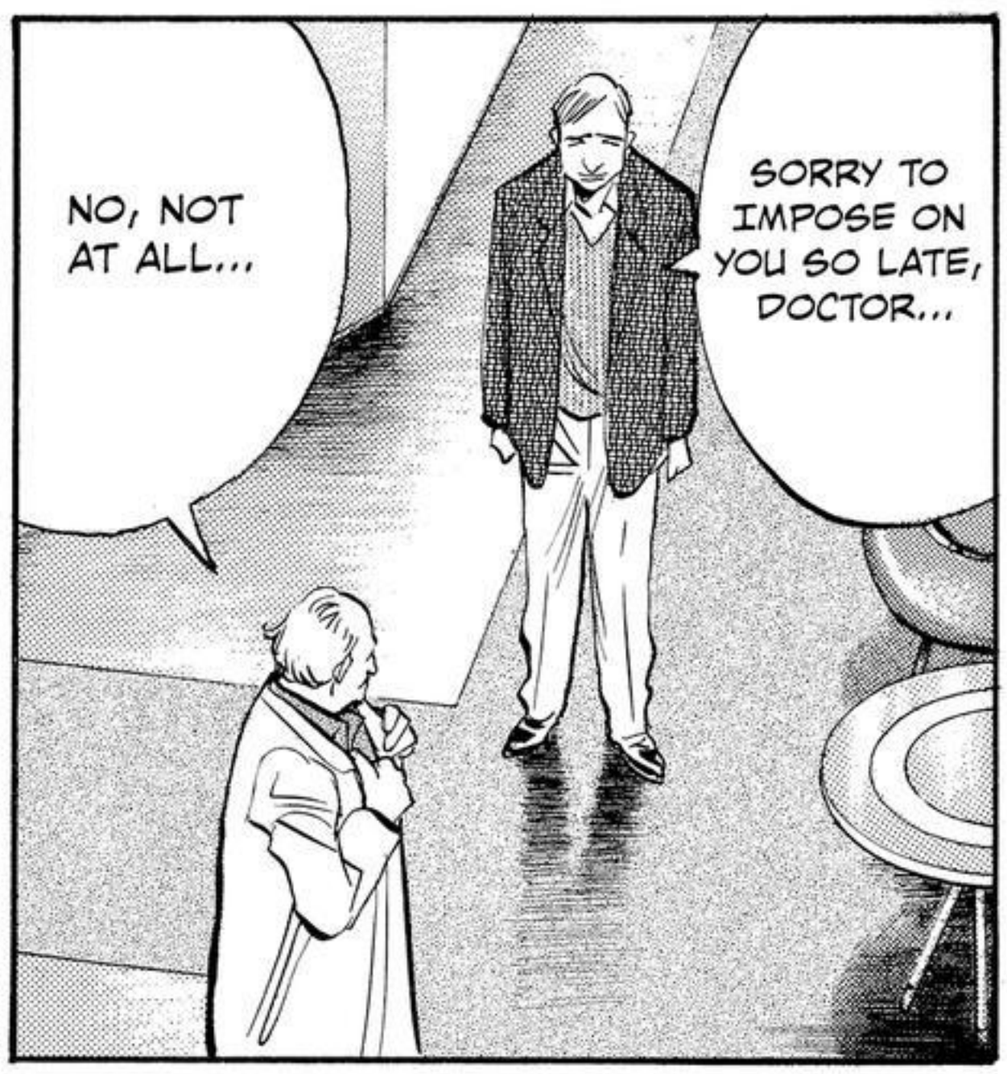

HOFGARTEN CEMETERY.
CON-FIRMED.



TAKE ME TO DR. SCHILLER'S ...
CON-FIRMED...

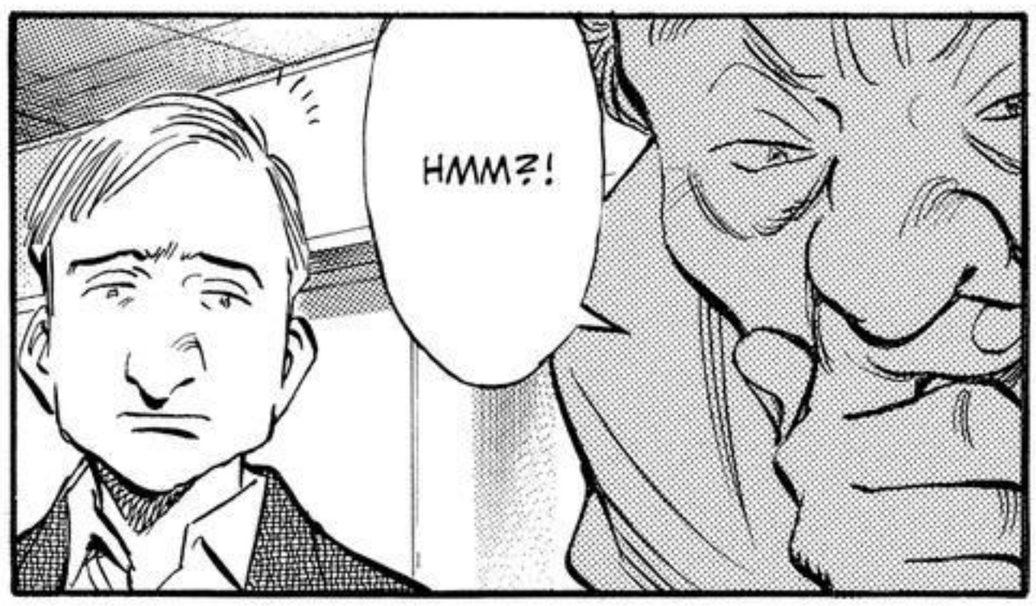
YOUR BROTHER'S CORPSE?
YOU WANT ME TO VIEW THE BODY...

THAT'S RIGHT.

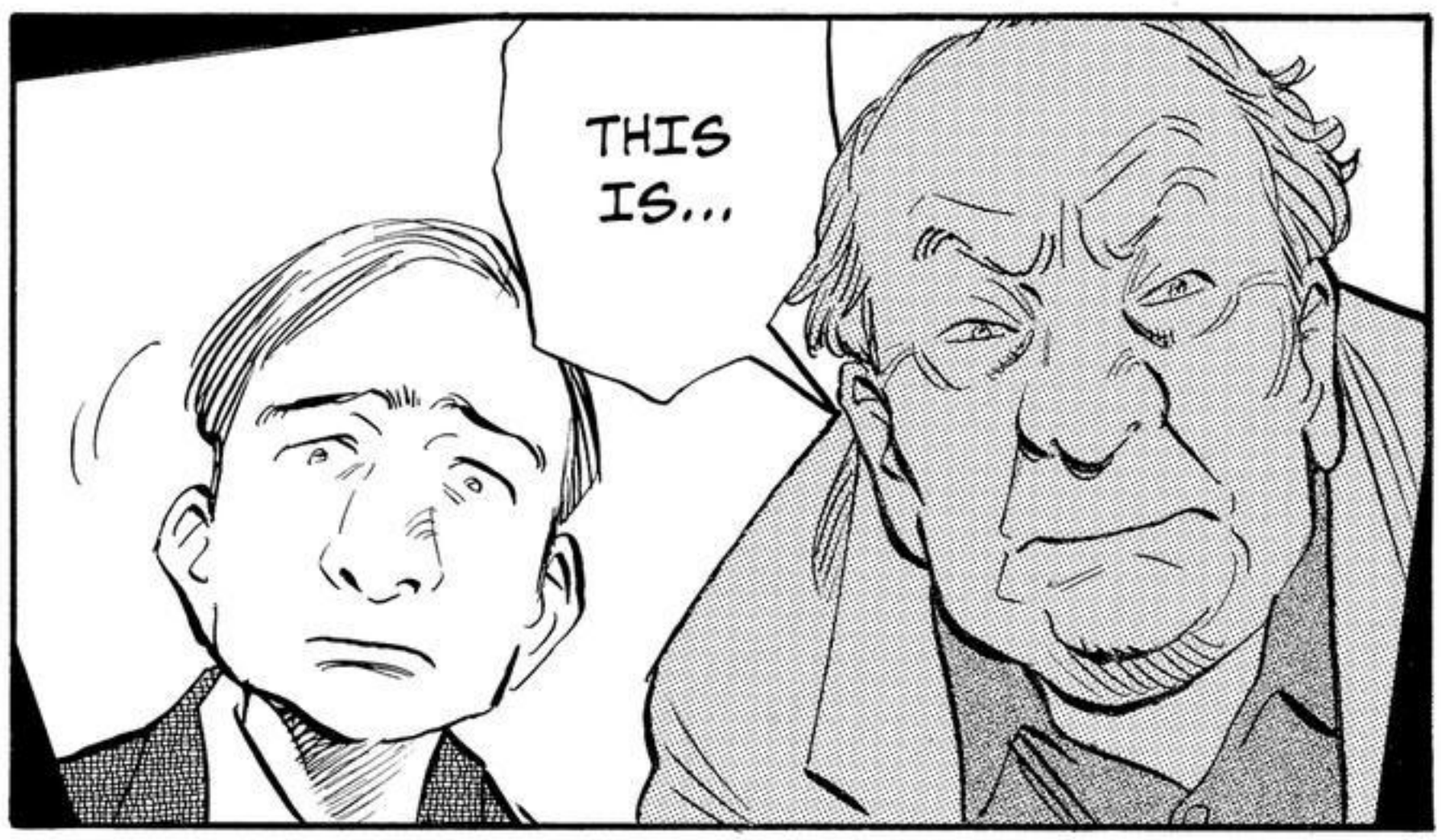

NO, NOT AT ALL...
SORRY TO IMPOSE ON YOU SO LATE, DOCTOR...

JUST A FINAL FAREWELL, EH?
WHIRRR

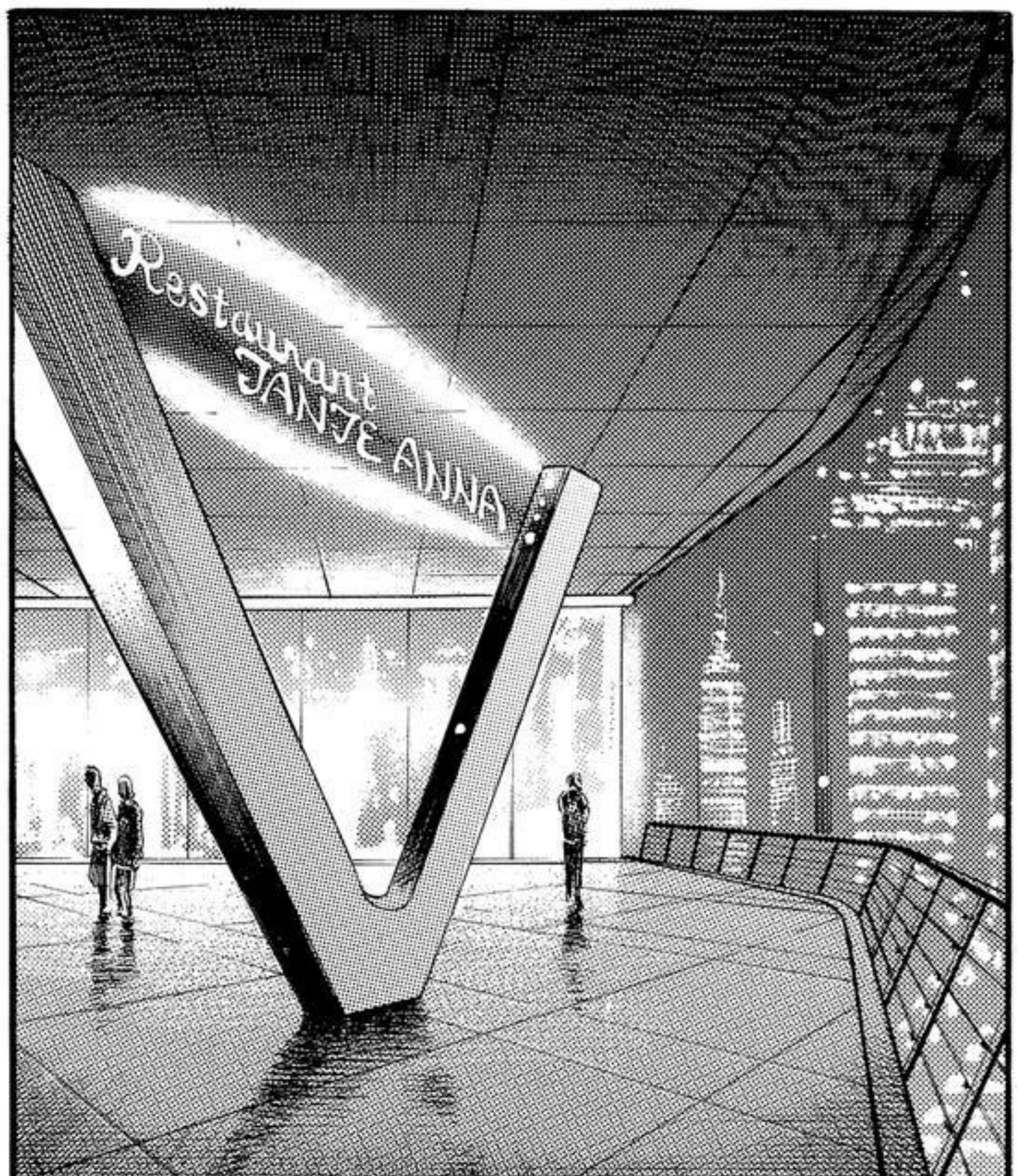
NO, NOT REALLY...
YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THE AUTOPSY REPORT?


HMM?!

WHIRRR
LET'S SEE NOW...

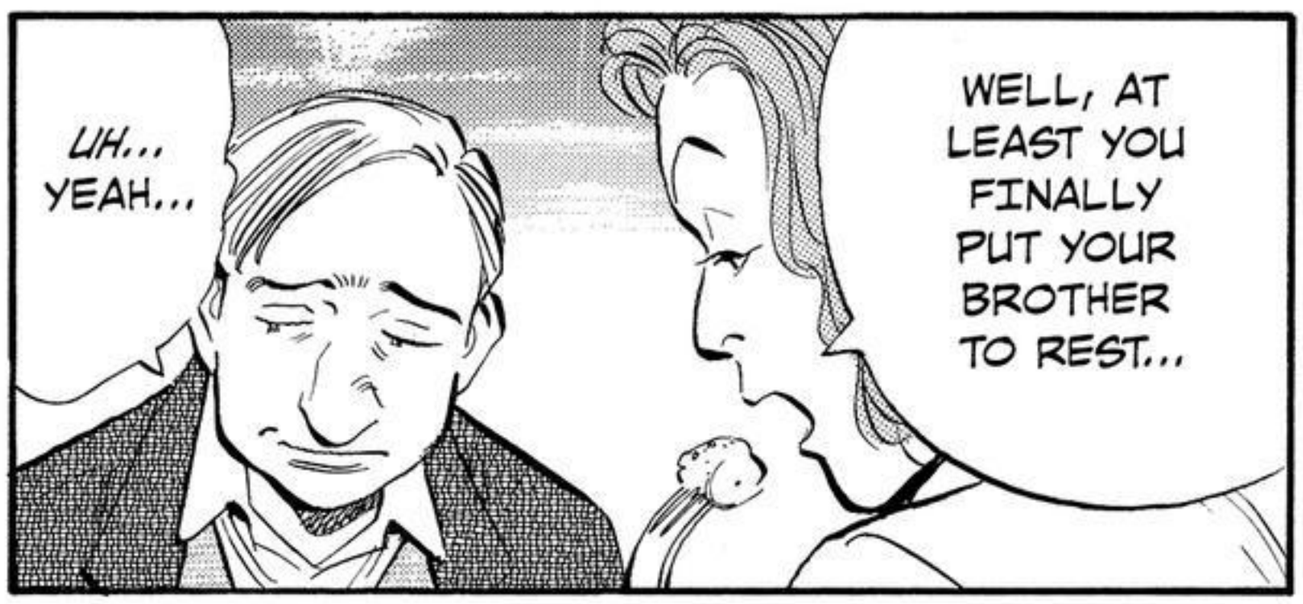

THIS IS...

SOMETHING THE MATTER, DOCTOR?


Restaurant
JANJE ANNA

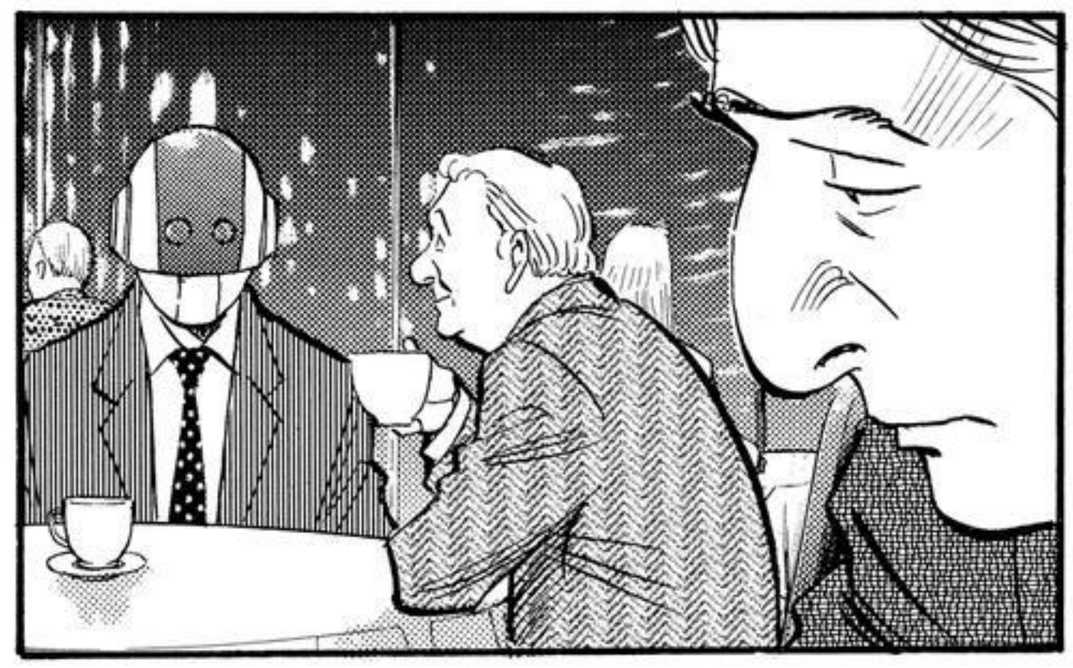
...

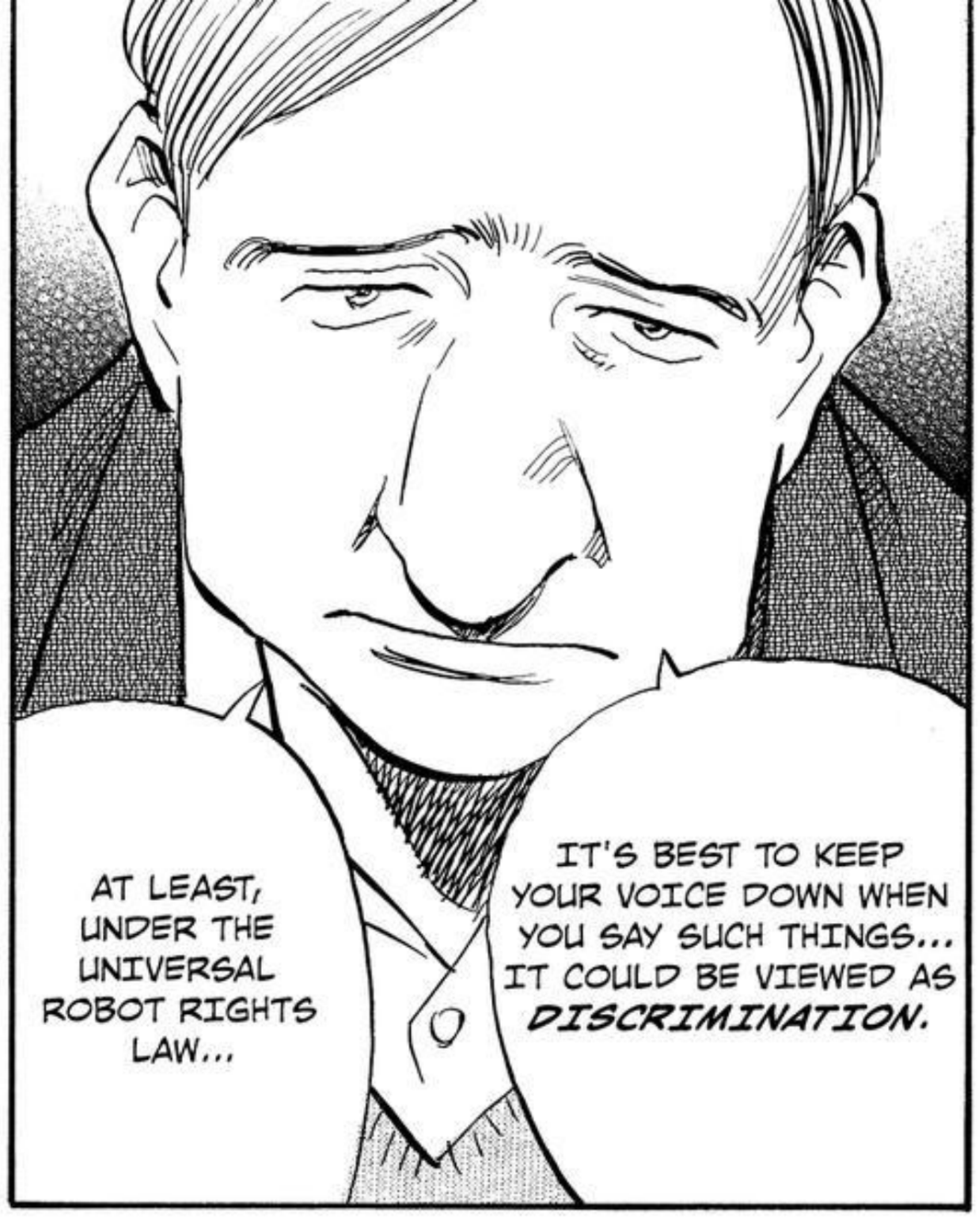
WHA--?
WHAT'S THE MATTER, DEAR?


UH... YEAH...
WELL, AT LEAST YOU FINALLY PUT YOUR BROTHER TO REST...

OH... UH, IT'S NOTHING...

SEEMS LIKE THERE ARE MORE AND MORE ROBOTS THESE DAYS... EVEN IN PLACES LIKE THIS...




AT LEAST, UNDER THE UNIVERSAL ROBOT RIGHTS LAW...
IT'S BEST TO KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN WHEN YOU SAY SUCH THINGS... IT COULD BE VIEWED AS *DISCRIMINATION.*

BUT CAN THAT REALLY BE TRUE...?
THEY SAY THEY THINK JUST LIKE US NOW...

SHHH ...!

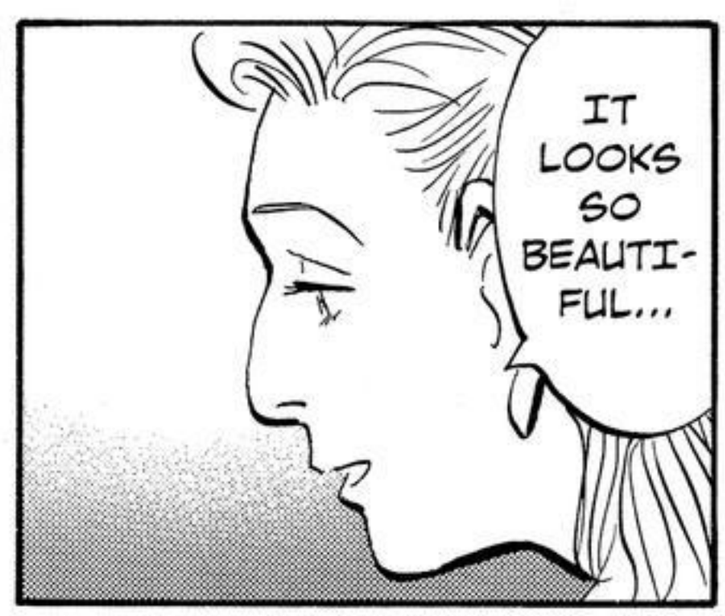
KAMAKURA, HUH?
MY FRIENDS SENT THIS. THEY SAY WE'VE GOT TO VISIT THIS PLACE WHEN WE GO TO JAPAN.

...

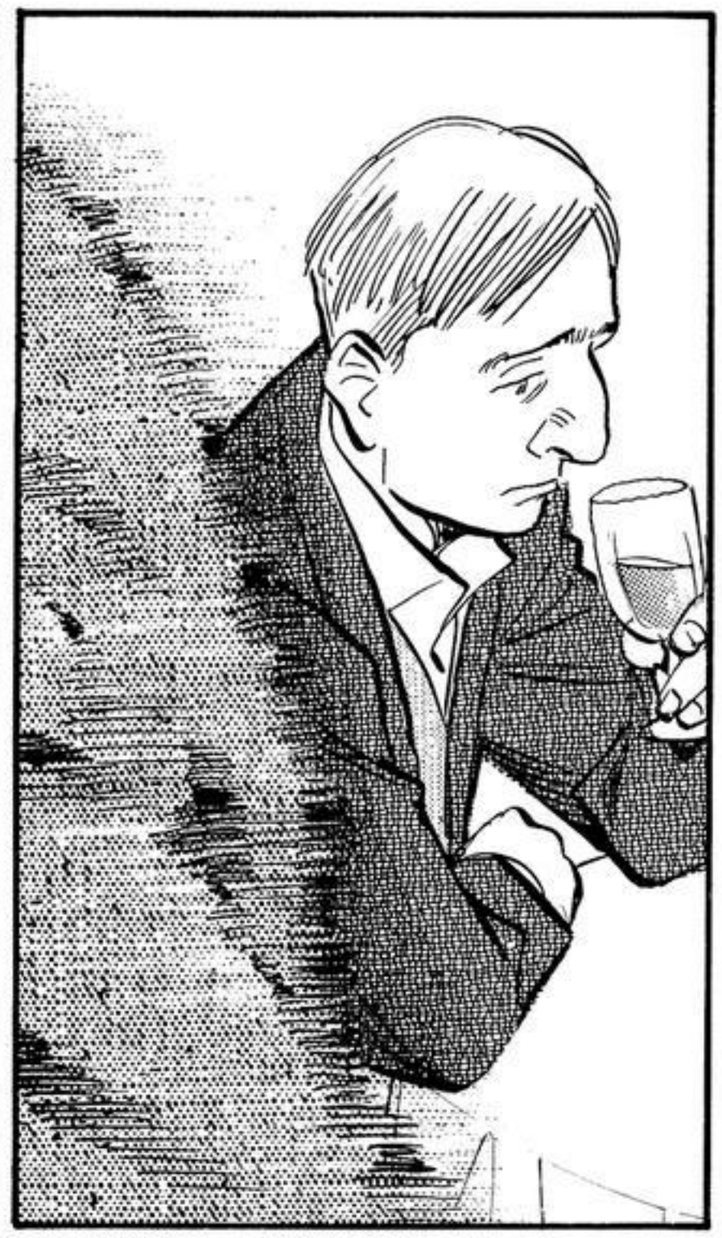
LOOK AT THIS, DEAR...

OF... OF COURSE. JUST BE CAREFUL.
I'LL SEE YOU LATER...

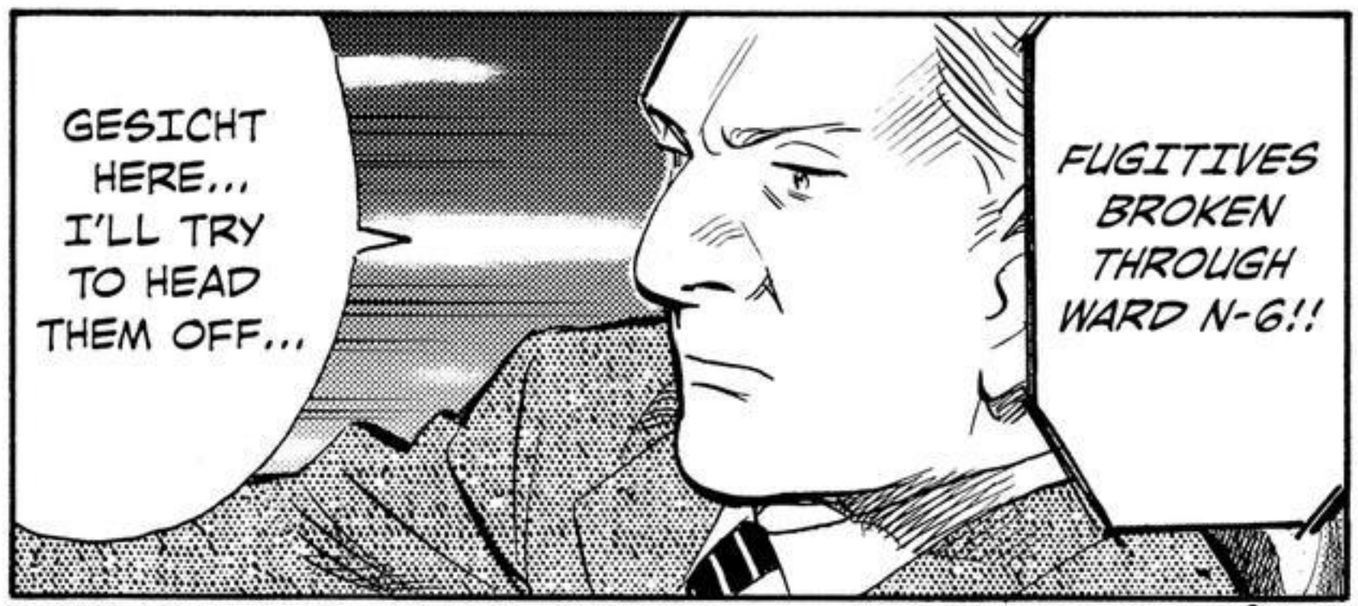
I'M SORRY, HELENA... AN EMERGENCY'S COME UP...
CAN YOU MAKE IT HOME OKAY ALONE?

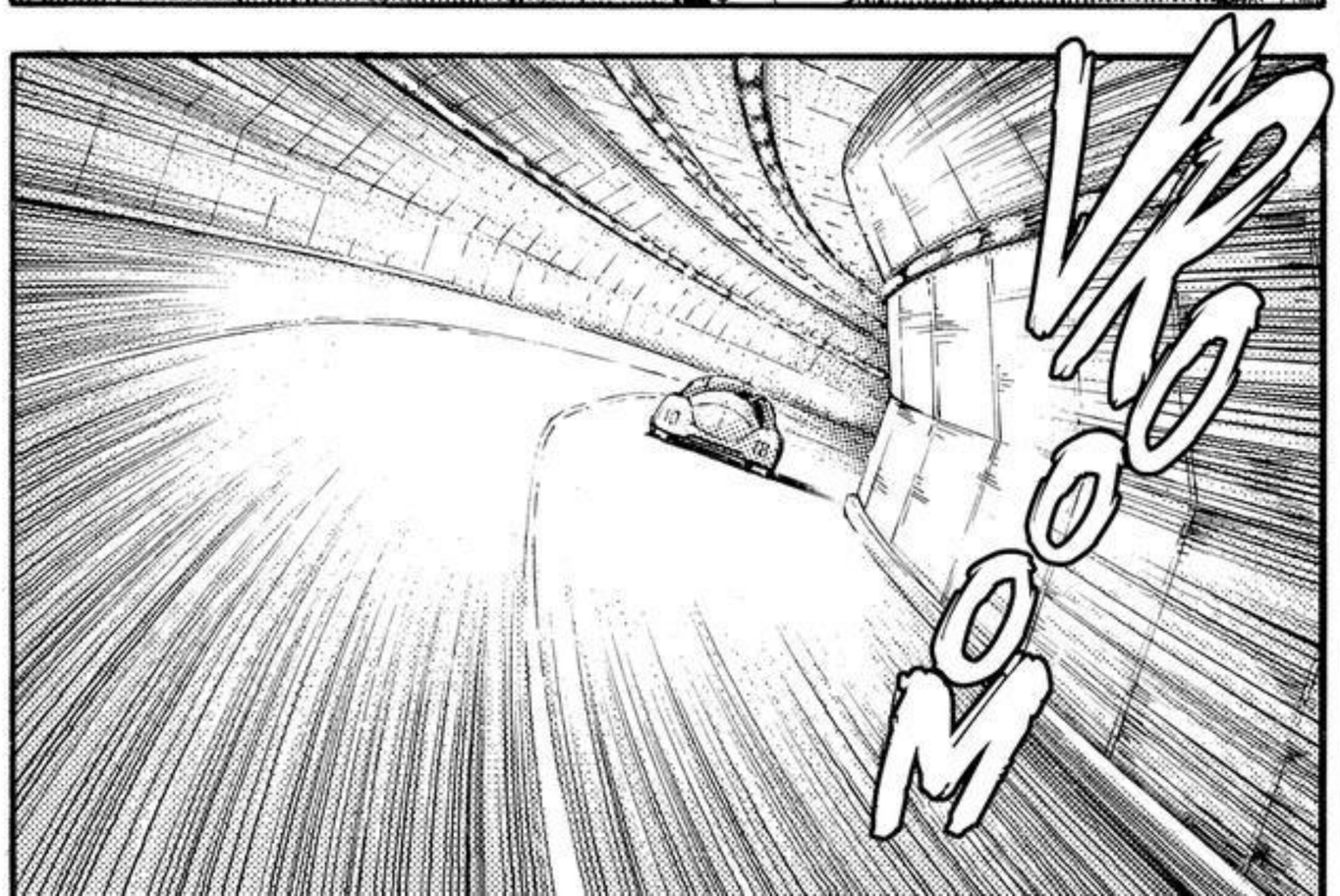

IT LOOKS SO BEAUTIFUL...

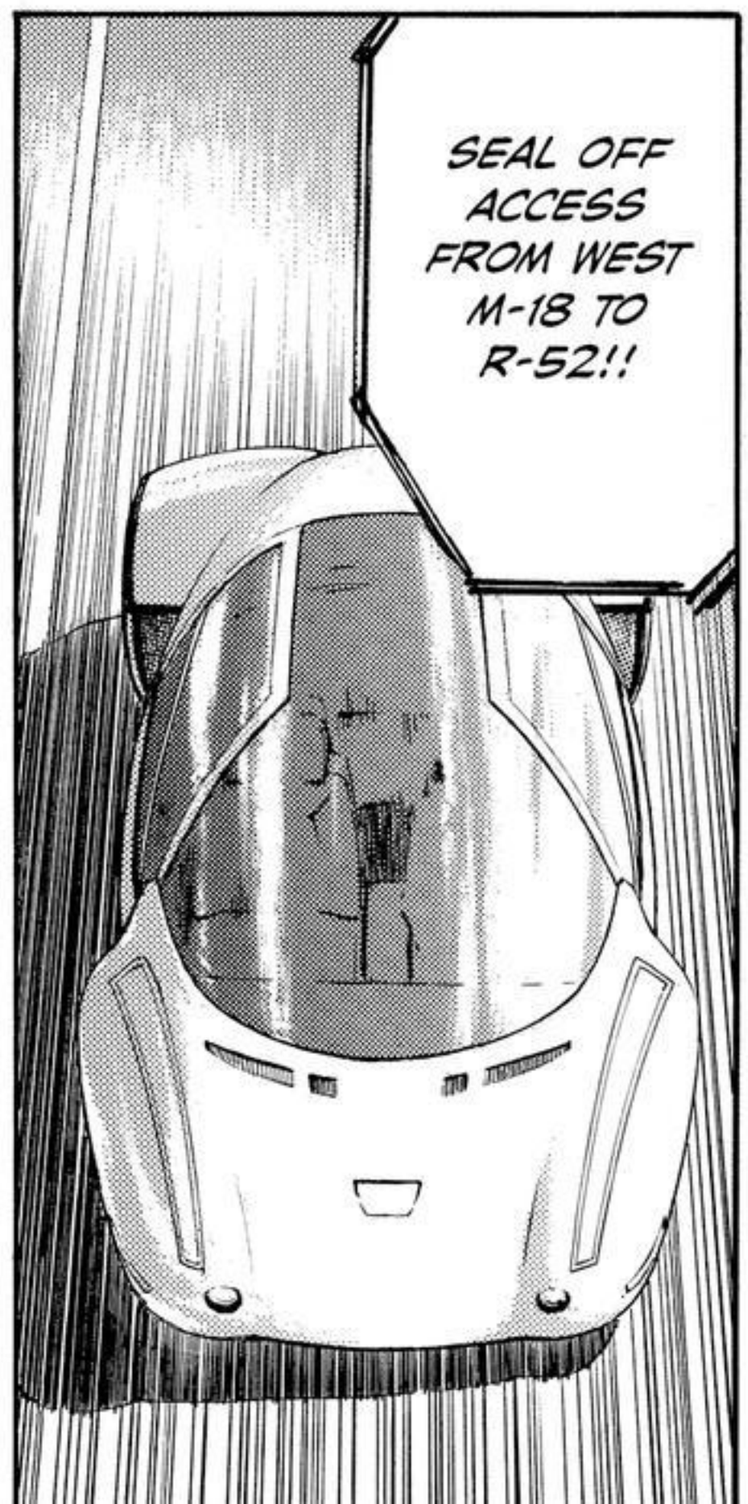
?!

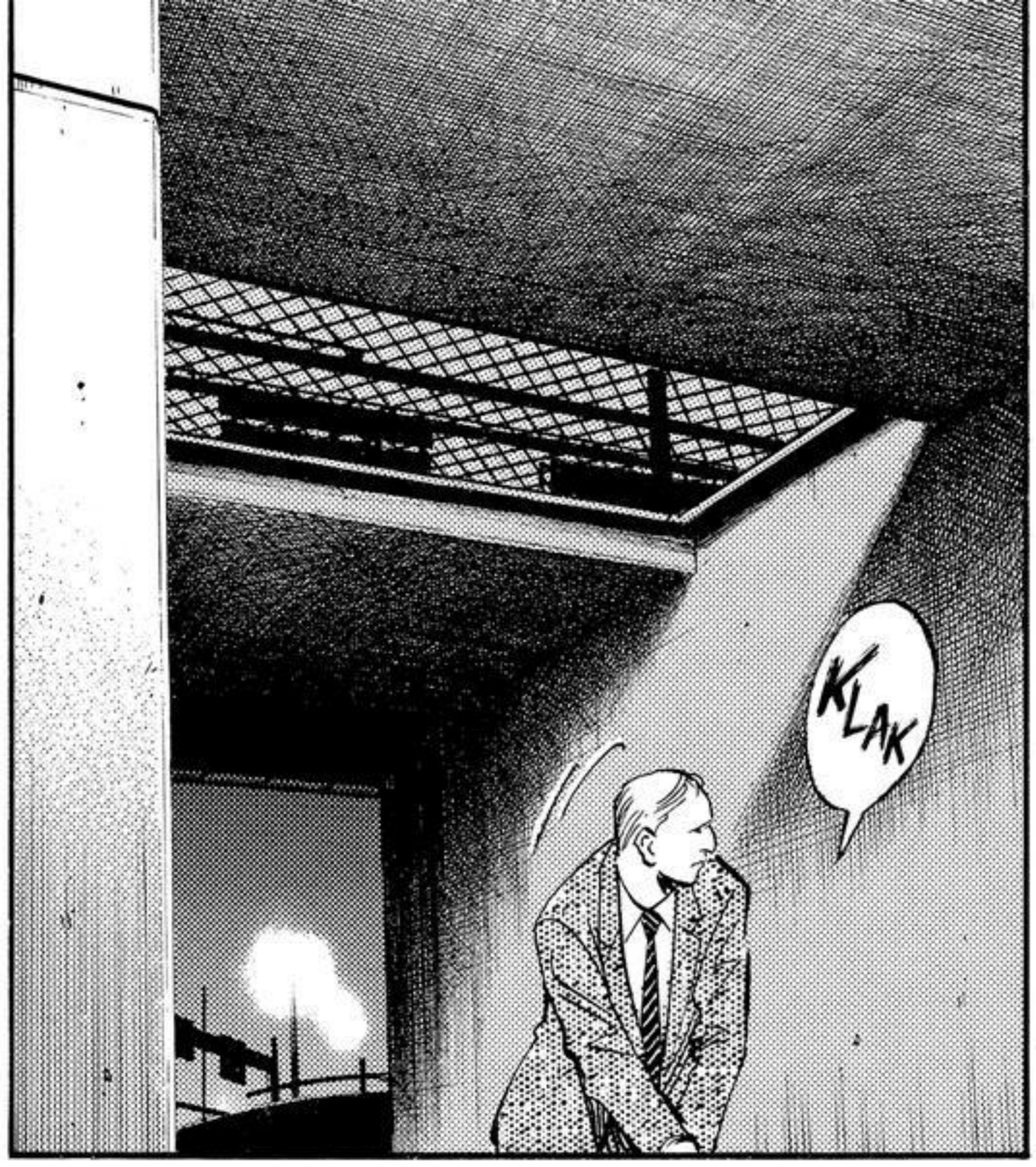


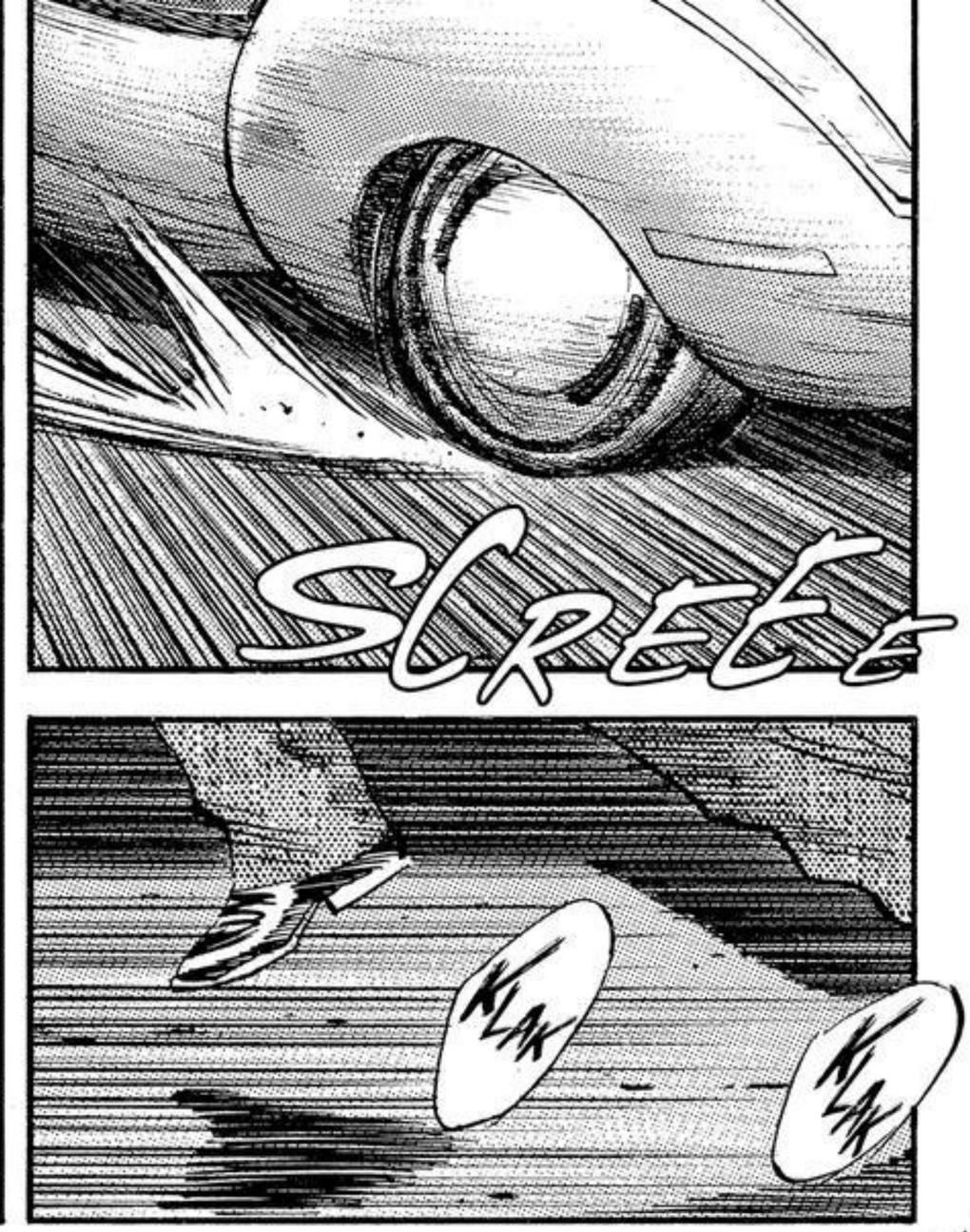
MULTIPLE SUSPECTS, NOW FLEEING IN A MILITARY ARMORED VEHICLE!!
ARMED ROBBERY IN PROGRESS!!


GESICHT HERE... I'LL TRY TO HEAD THEM OFF...
FUGITIVES BROKEN THROUGH WARD N-6!!

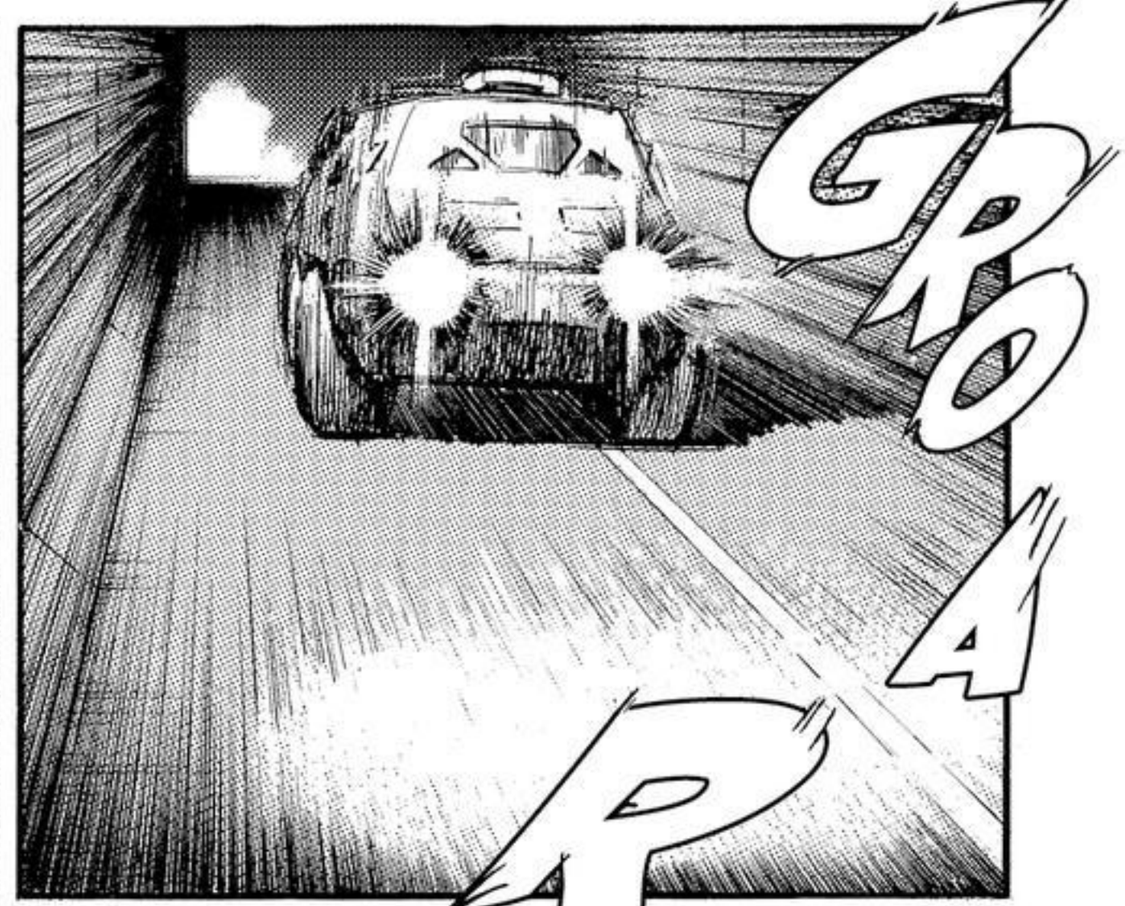

VROOOM


SEAL OFF ACCESS FROM WEST M-18 TO R-52!!

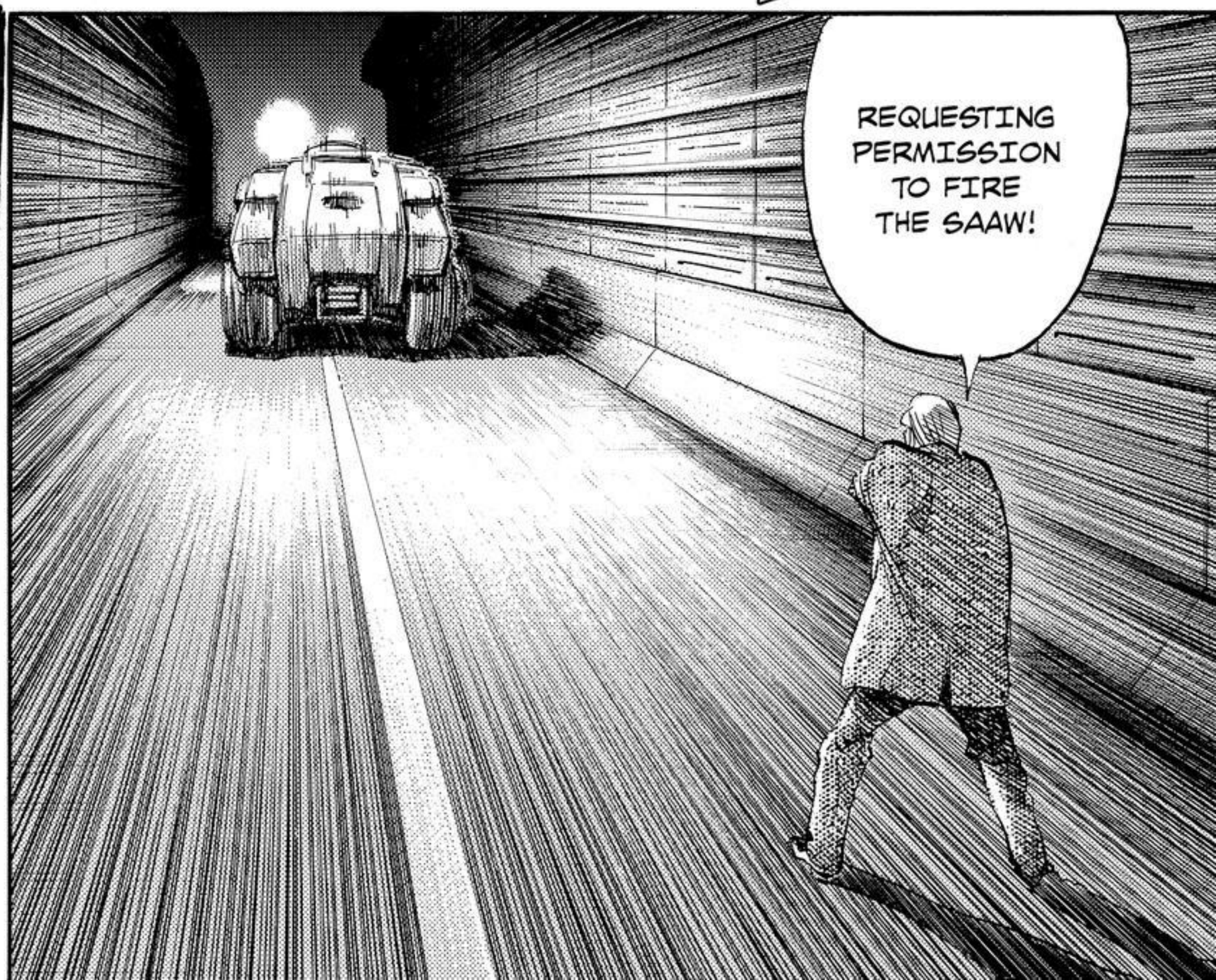

KLAK


SCREEE
KLAK
KLAK

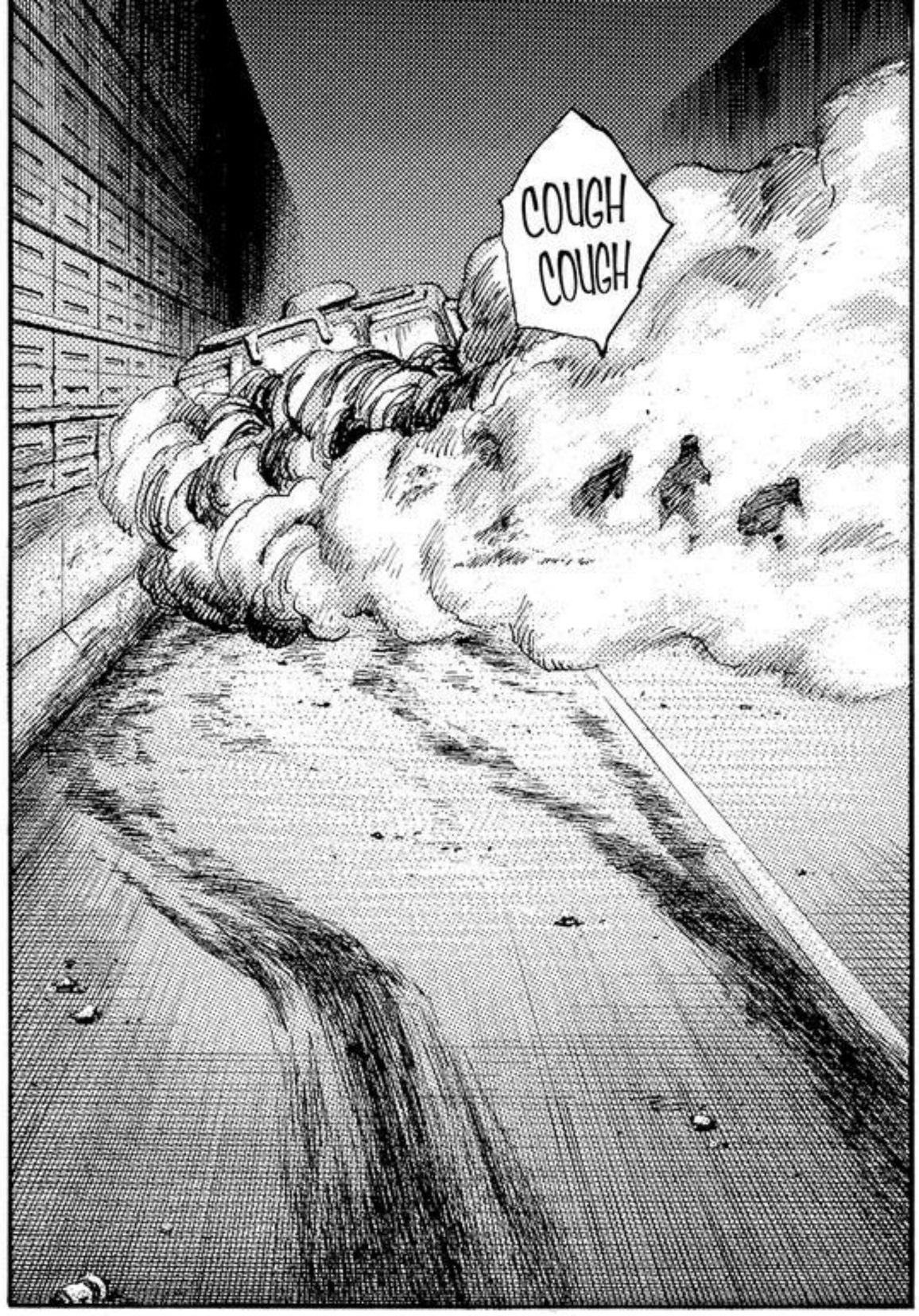
GROA
I HAVE VISUAL CONFIR-MATION ON THE FUGITIVE VEHICLE!


GROA

PROCEED!


REQUESTING PERMISSION TO FIRE THE SAAW!

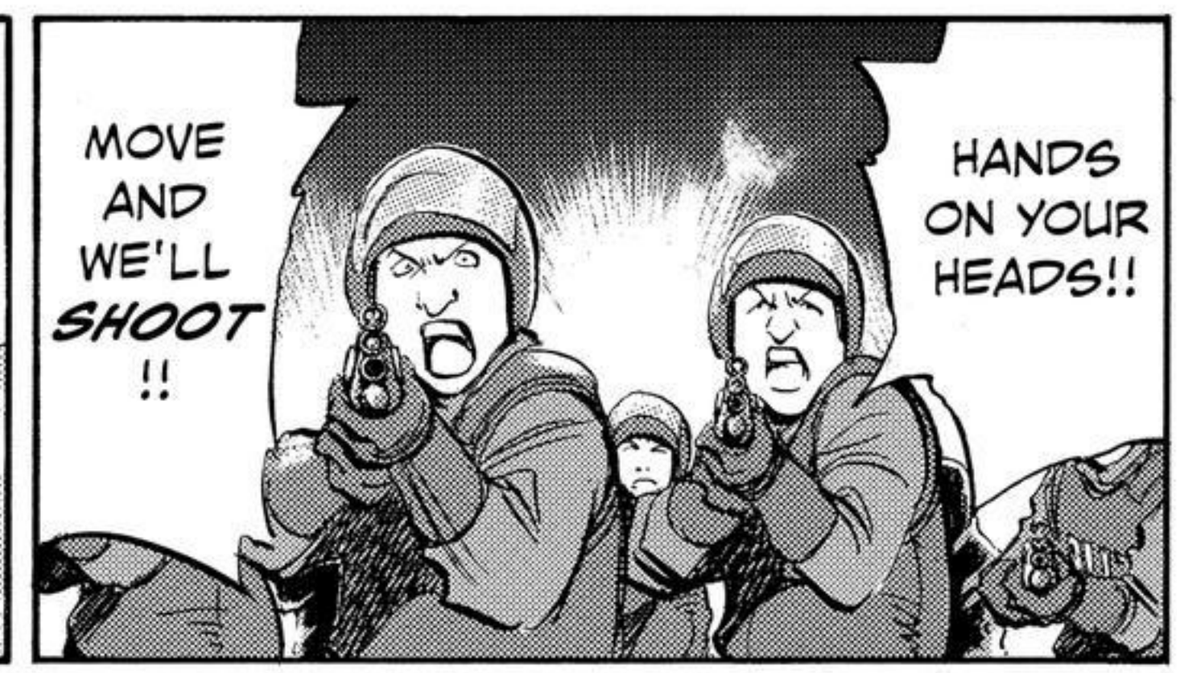
SHOOK
SHOOK


COUGH COUGH

WEEOOH
WEEOOH
YOU GET 'EM, GESICHT ?!!
PO

I LIMITED THE DESTRUCTION TO JUST THE DRIVE WHEELS...

GASP...
COUGH COUGH


MOVE AND WE'LL SHOOT !!
HANDS ON YOUR HEADS!!

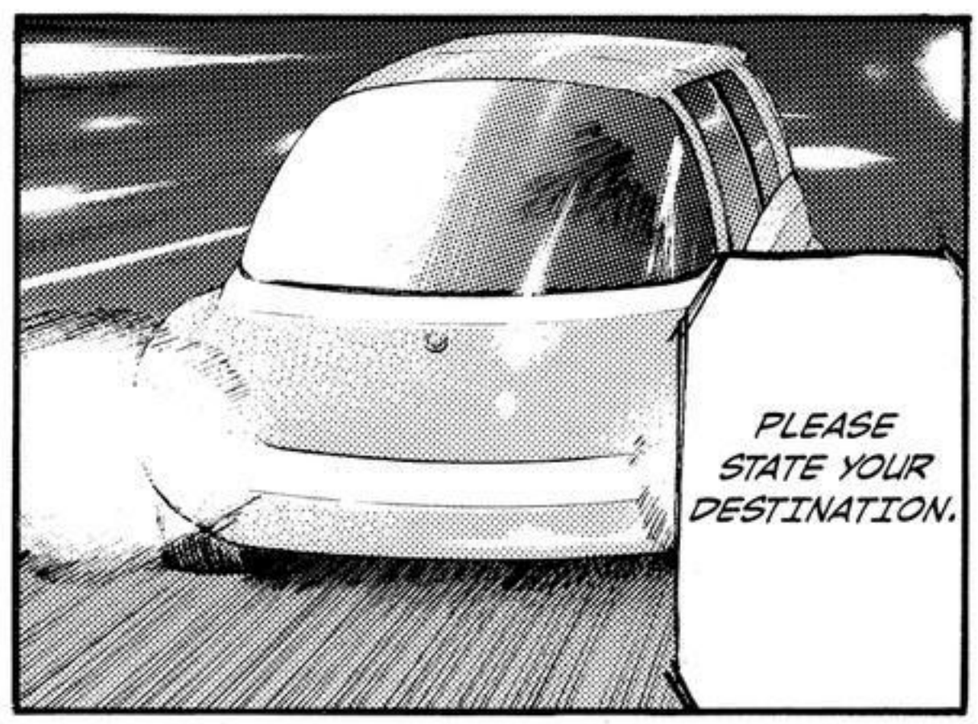
YOU'D NEVER STOP A HEAVILY ARMORED VEHICLE LIKE THAT WITH ORDINARY SHELLS...
NO...

GOOD JOB, GESICHT...
WAS THAT SOME KINDA SPECIAL ANTI-TANK GUN?

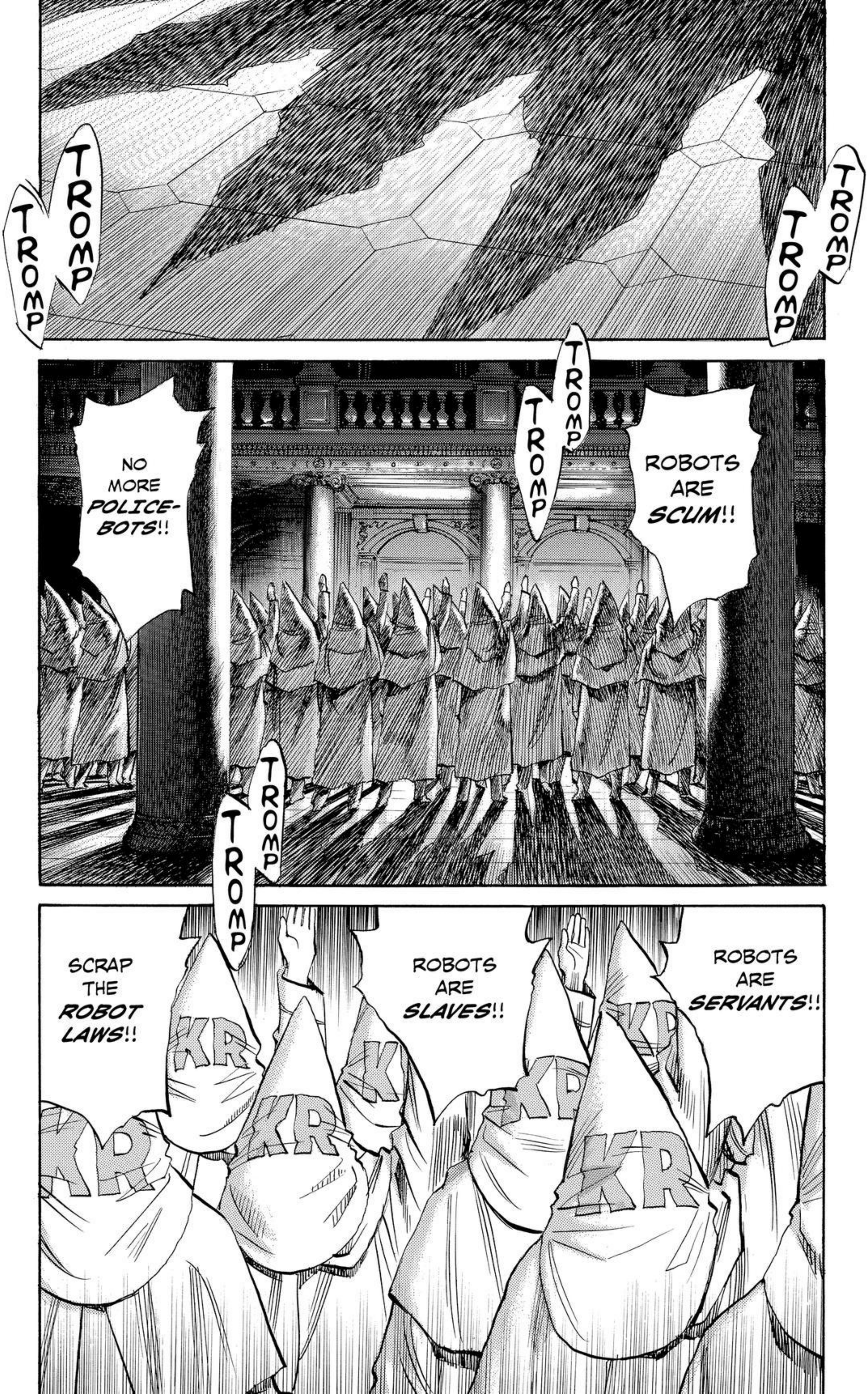
SO WHAT'D YOU USE?

I FIRED A ZERONIUM SHELL...

THE USUAL ROUTE, SIR?
THE MEETING PLACE.


PLEASE STATE YOUR DESTINATION.

SURE.


TROMP
TROMP
TROMP
TROMP
TROMP
TROMP
NO MORE POLICE-BOTS!!
ROBOTS ARE SCUM!!
TROMP
TROMP
SCRAP THE ROBOT LAWS!!
ROBOTS ARE SLAVES!!
ROBOTS ARE SERVANTS!!
KR
KR
KR
KR
KR
KR

DEATH TO MACHINES !!

DEATH TO MACHINES !!

DEATH TO MACHINES !!

DEATH TO MACHINES !!

DEATH TO MACHINES !!

KR

KR

TROMP

TROMP

KR

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DEATH TO MACHINES !!

KTNK

SIT DOWN...

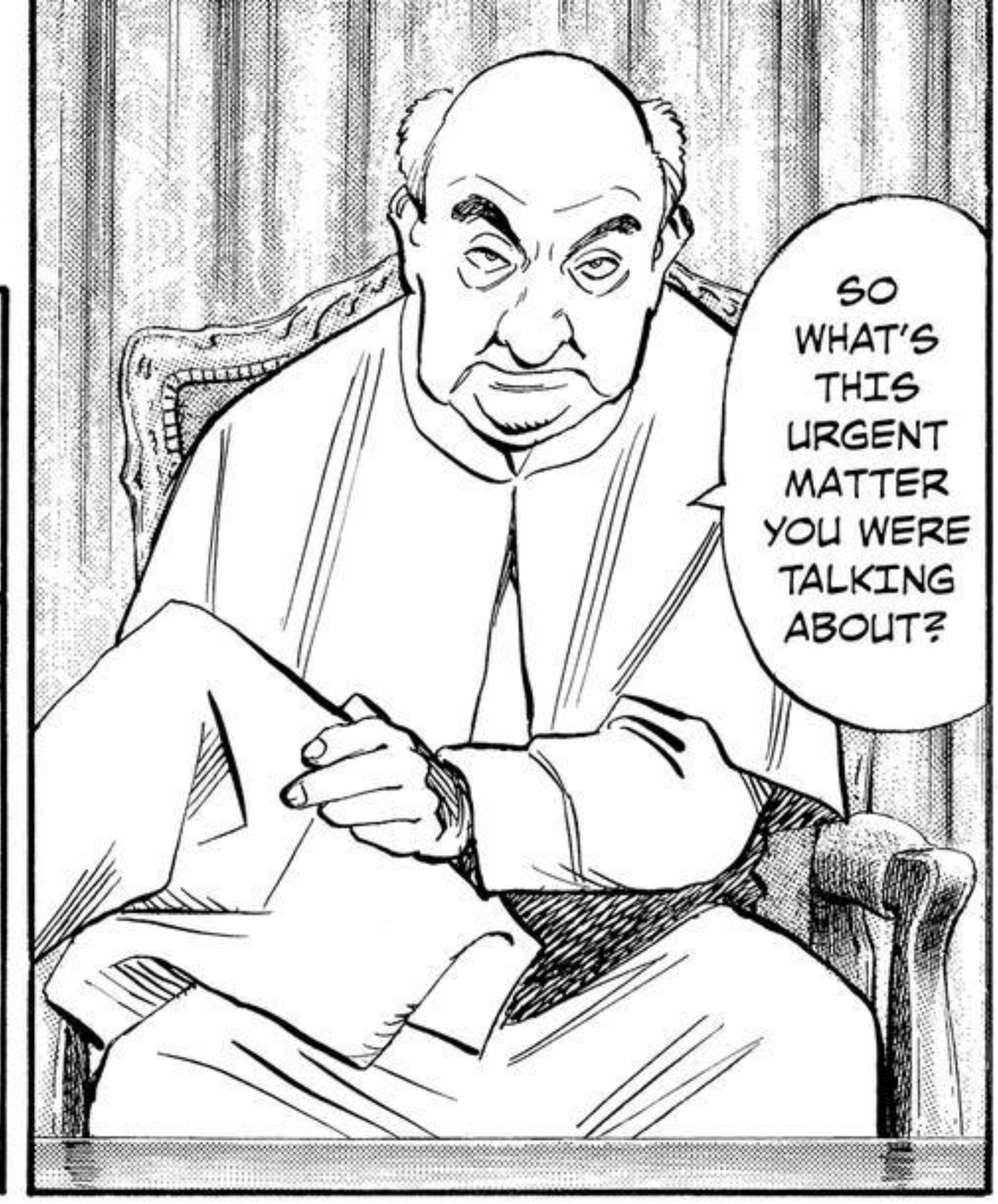
TROMP

TROMP

KR

KR

WELL...
KR
YES, SIR...


SO WHAT'S THIS URGENT MATTER YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT?

YES...

YOU MAY SPEAK FRANKLY...

AND I HAD A DOCTOR TAKE A LOOK AT THE CORPSE.

AND...?

I GOT MY BROTHER'S BODY BACK.
AH, YOUR BROTHER ...

HE WAS PULVERIZED ...

BUT NONETHE-LESS...

I KNOW MY BROTHER DESERVED TO BE KILLED.

NONETHE-LESS WHAT?

THE DOCTOR SAID THERE'S ONLY ONE THING THAT COULD FIRE A SHELL THAT WOULD INFLICT SO MUCH DAMAGE...

HE WAS KILLED WITH A WEAPON THAT SHOULD NEVER BE USED AGAINST HUMANS...

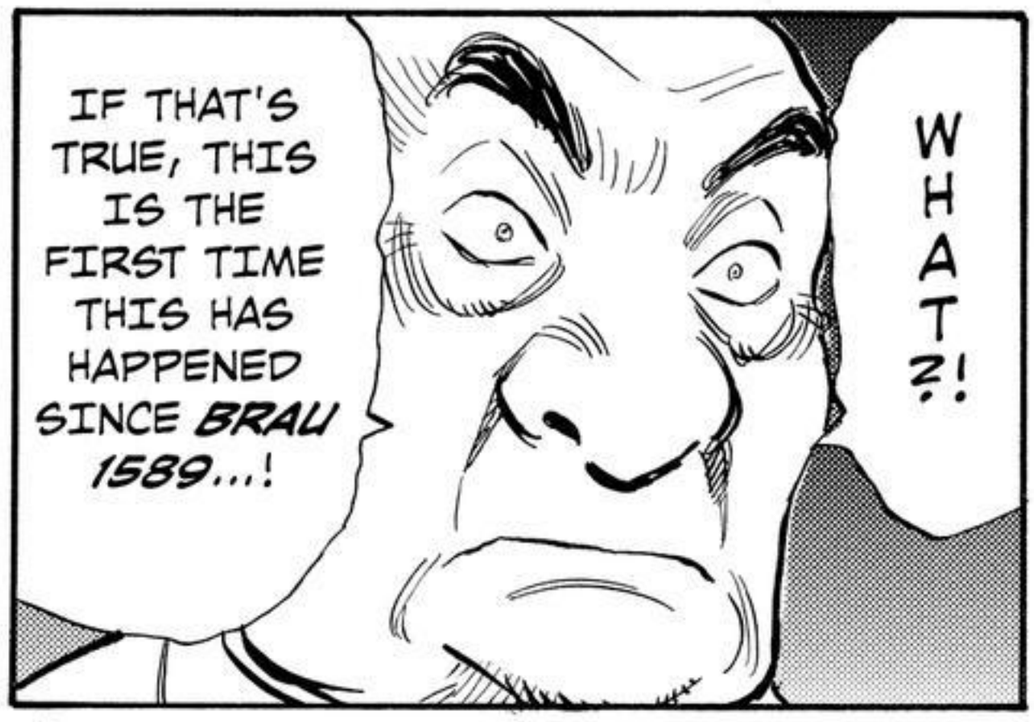
"PULVER-IZED"?

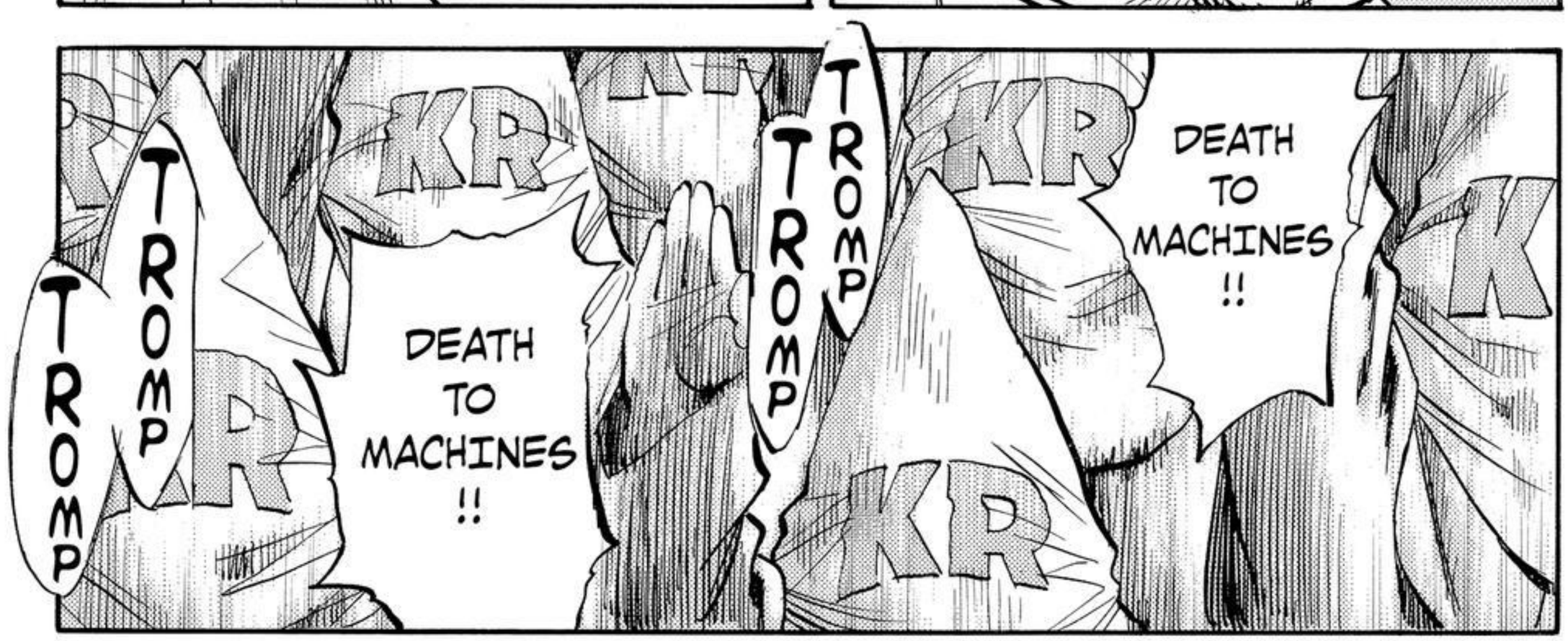
TROMP TROMP TROMP TROMP TROMP TROMP

KR KR KR KR KR KR KR KR KR KR KR KR

AND THAT'S A *ROBOT*...

YES, SIR... AND EVIDENTLY ONLY A FEW ROBOTS IN THE WORLD CAN FIRE SUCH A WEAPON...


WHAT?!
IF THAT'S TRUE, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THIS HAS HAPPENED SINCE *BRAU 1589*...!


TROMP
TROMP
KR
DEATH TO MACHINES !!
TROMP
TROMP
KR
KR
DEATH TO MACHINES !!
KR

IT'S A SPECIAL *ZERONIUM ALLOY SHELL.*

Act 18 ZERONIUM

LESSEE... PROFESSOR JAMES DALTON'S INVENTION PRODUCED...

!!

MIND YOUR MANNERS, HANS! FEET OFF THE TABLE!

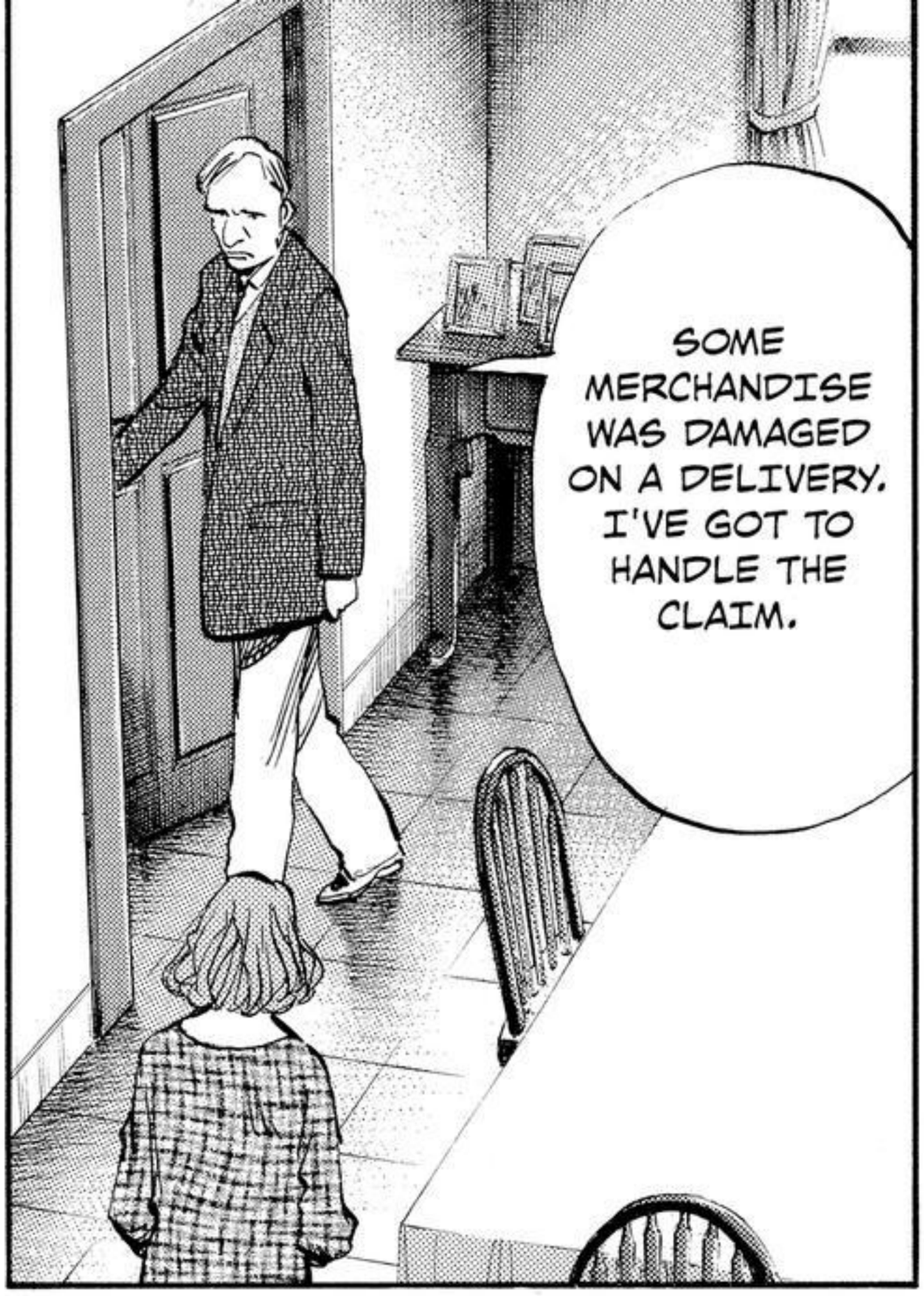
...A SPECIAL PLASTIC. ...UM, AND... ULTIMATELY, UH, ARTIFICIAL SKIN...?

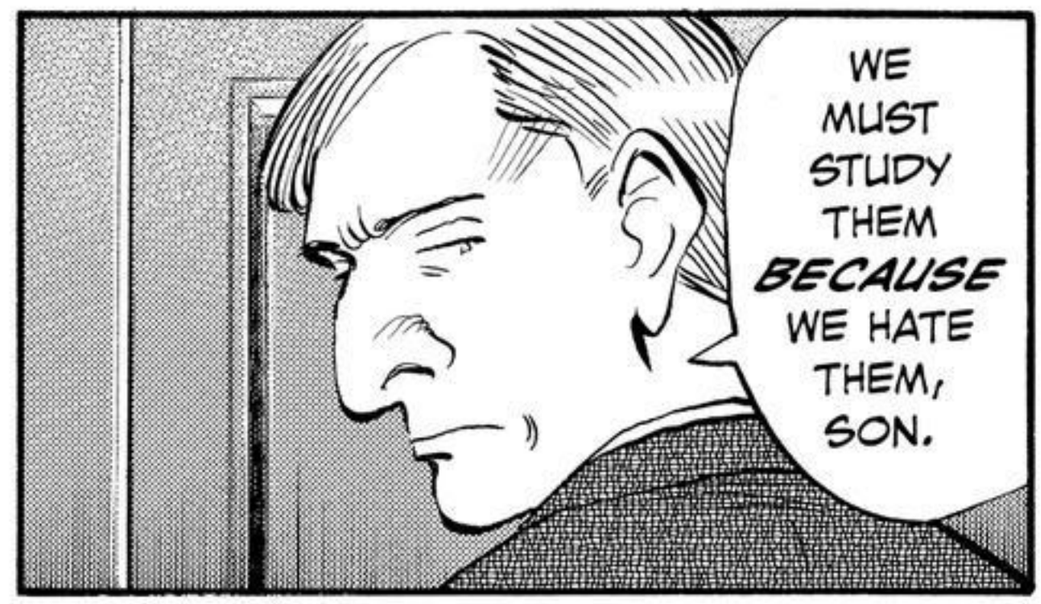
AND I *HATE* IT! ALL THESE WORDS I DON'T KNOW...

YEAH, ROBOT HISTORY... IT'S REQUIRED FOR MY GRADE THIS YEAR.

YOU'RE STUDYING FOR AN EXAM?

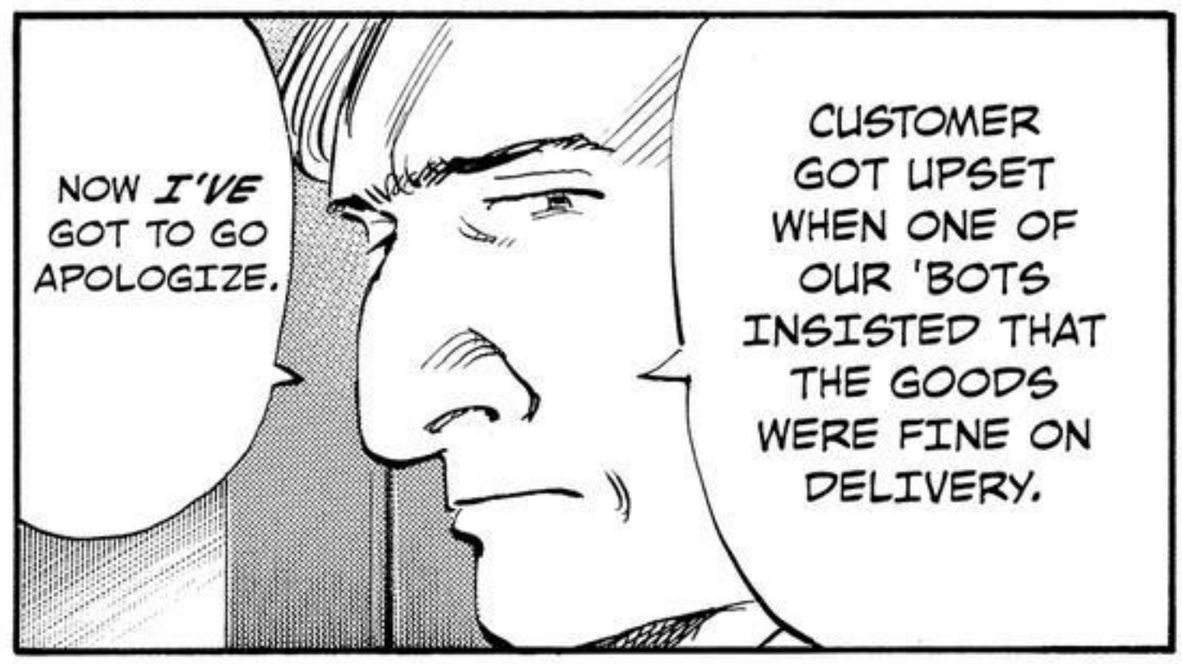
B-BUT, DAD... I MEMORIZE STUFF BETTER THIS WAY!


SOME MERCHANDISE WAS DAMAGED ON A DELIVERY. I'VE GOT TO HANDLE THE CLAIM.


WE MUST STUDY THEM *BECAUSE* WE HATE THEM, SON.

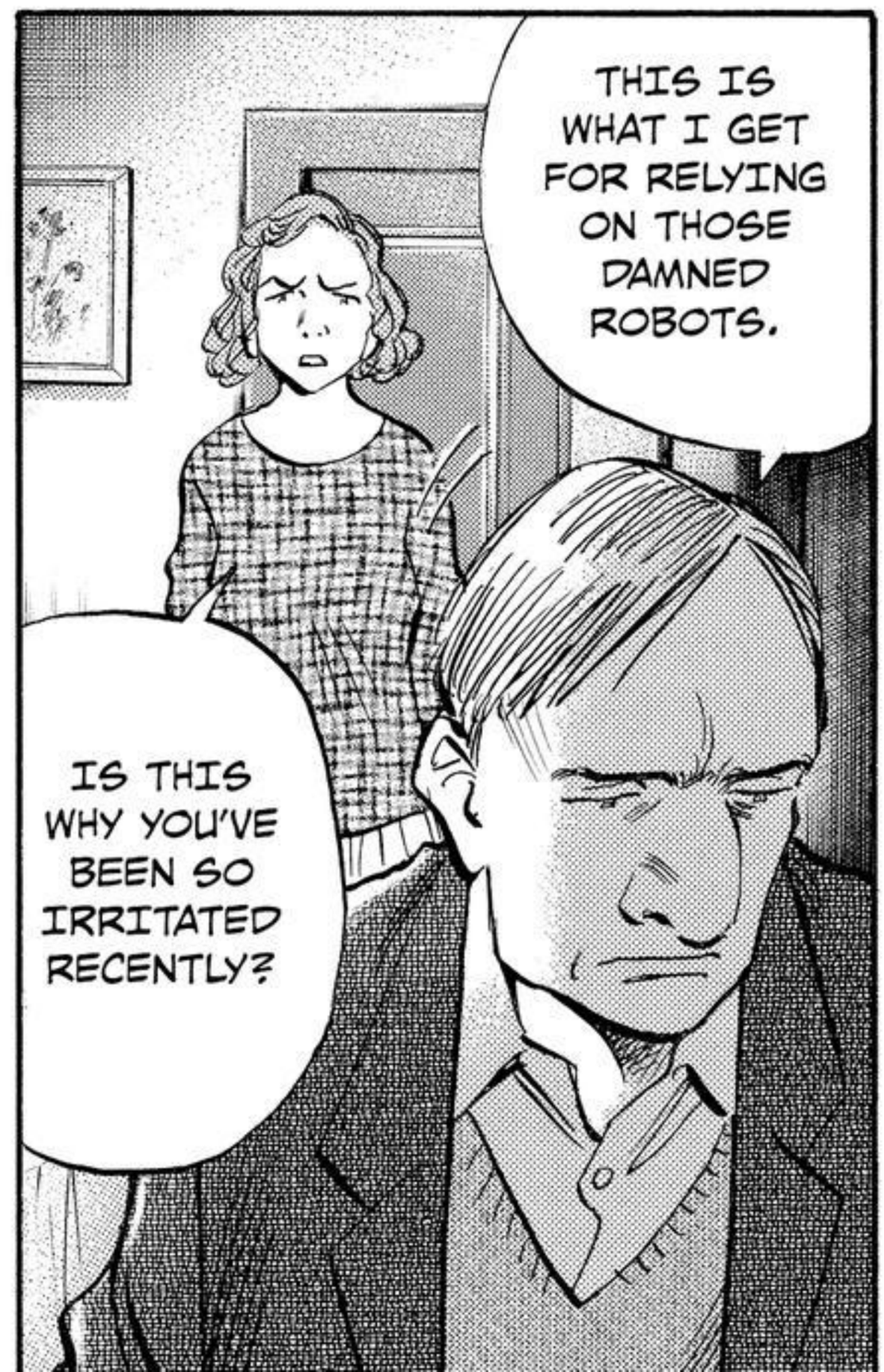
YEAH...
YOU LEAVING AGAIN, DEAR?

MY GOOD-NESS ...
BUT WHY SHOULD *YOU* HAVE TO...


NOW *I'VE* GOT TO GO APOLOGIZE.
CUSTOMER GOT UPSET WHEN ONE OF OUR 'BOTS INSISTED THAT THE GOODS WERE FINE ON DELIVERY.

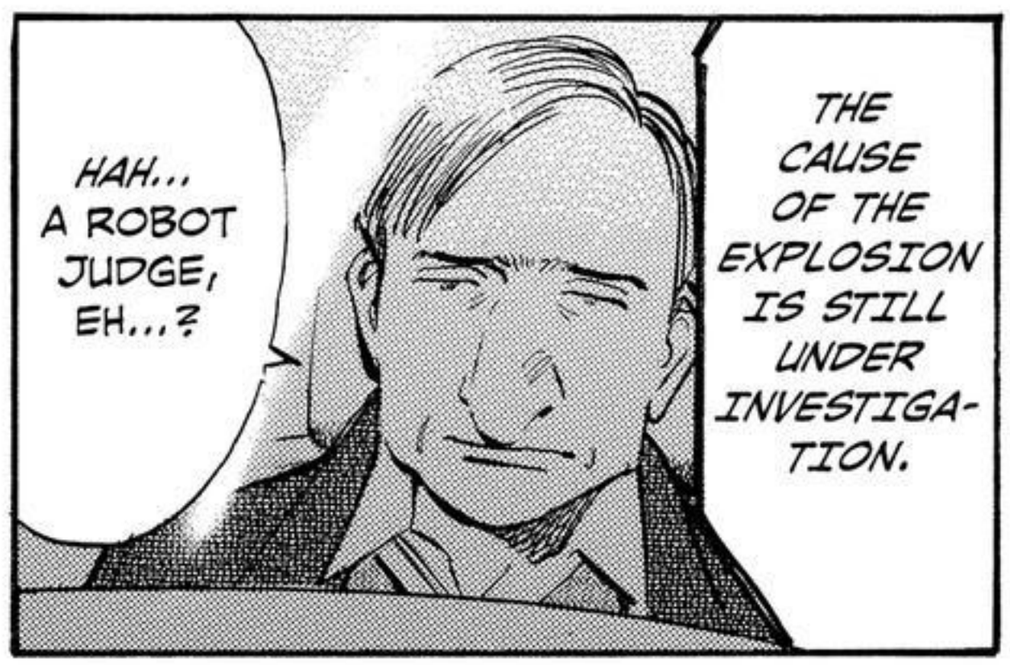
I TOLD YOU TO MIND YOUR MANNERS!
HANS!

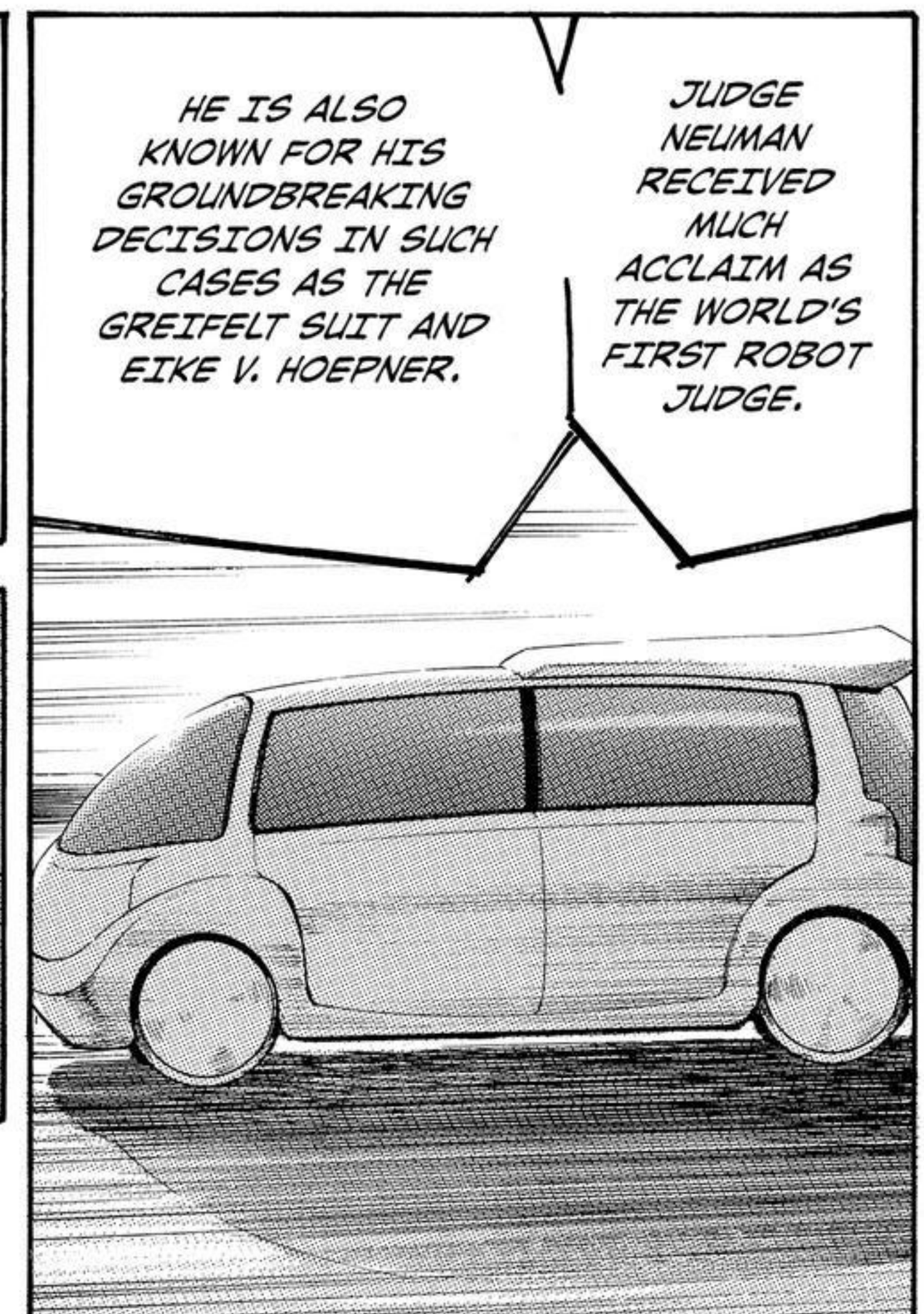
SLAM!

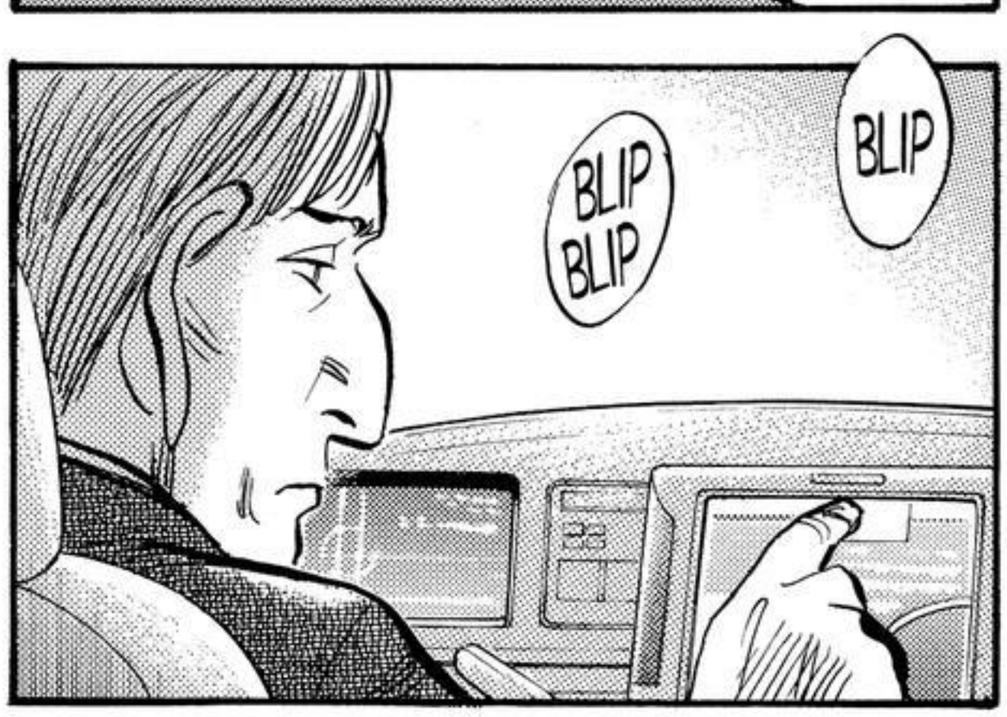

THIS IS WHAT I GET FOR RELYING ON THOSE DAMNED ROBOTS.
IS THIS WHY YOU'VE BEEN SO IRRITATED RECENTLY?

AN EXPLOSION OCCURRED AT A HOTEL IN BERLIN LAST NIGHT.

JUDGE NEUMAN OF THE GERMAN MINISTRY OF JUSTICE HAS BEEN CONFIRMED AS ONE OF THE FATALITIES...



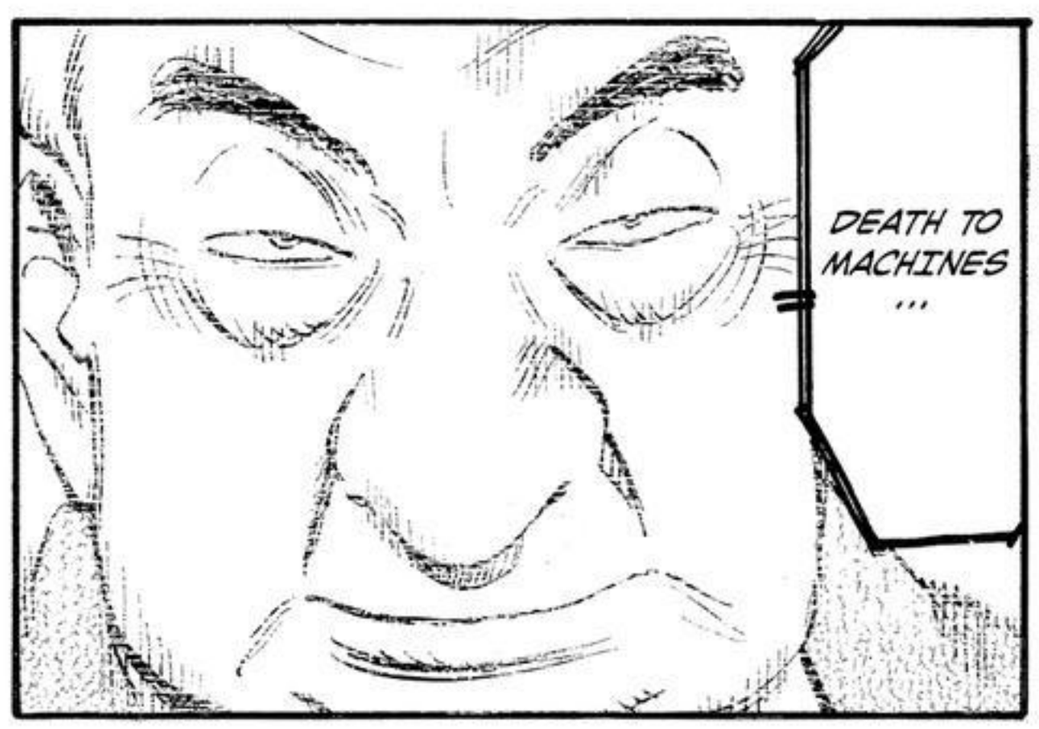


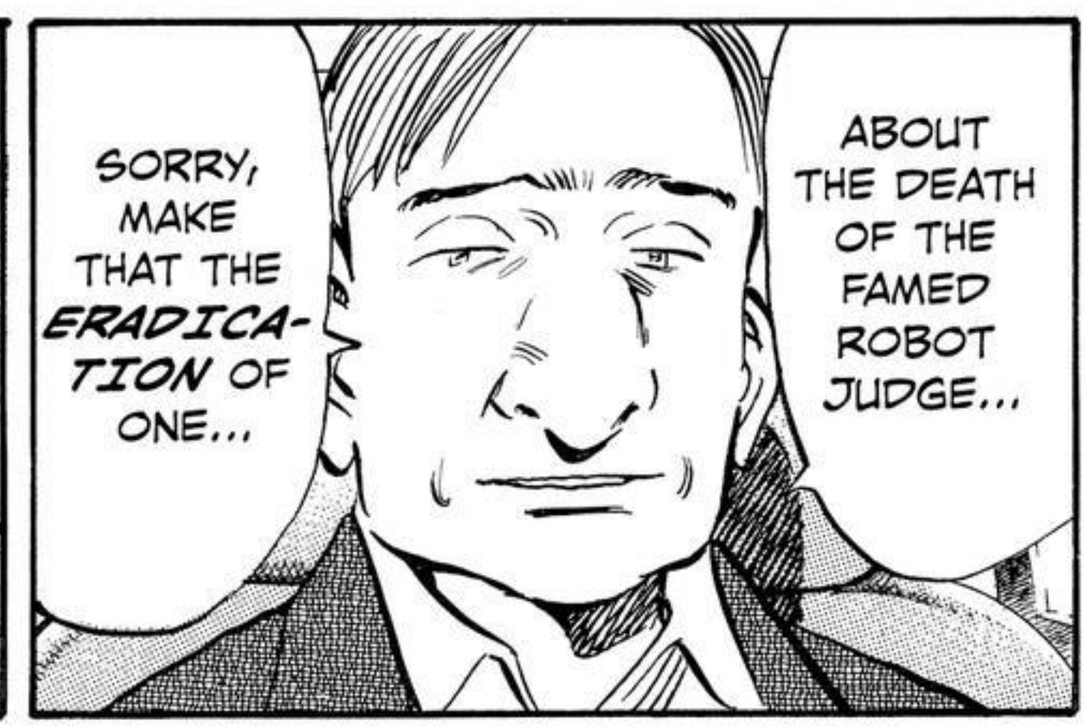


I HEARD THE NEWS.

ABOUT WHAT?

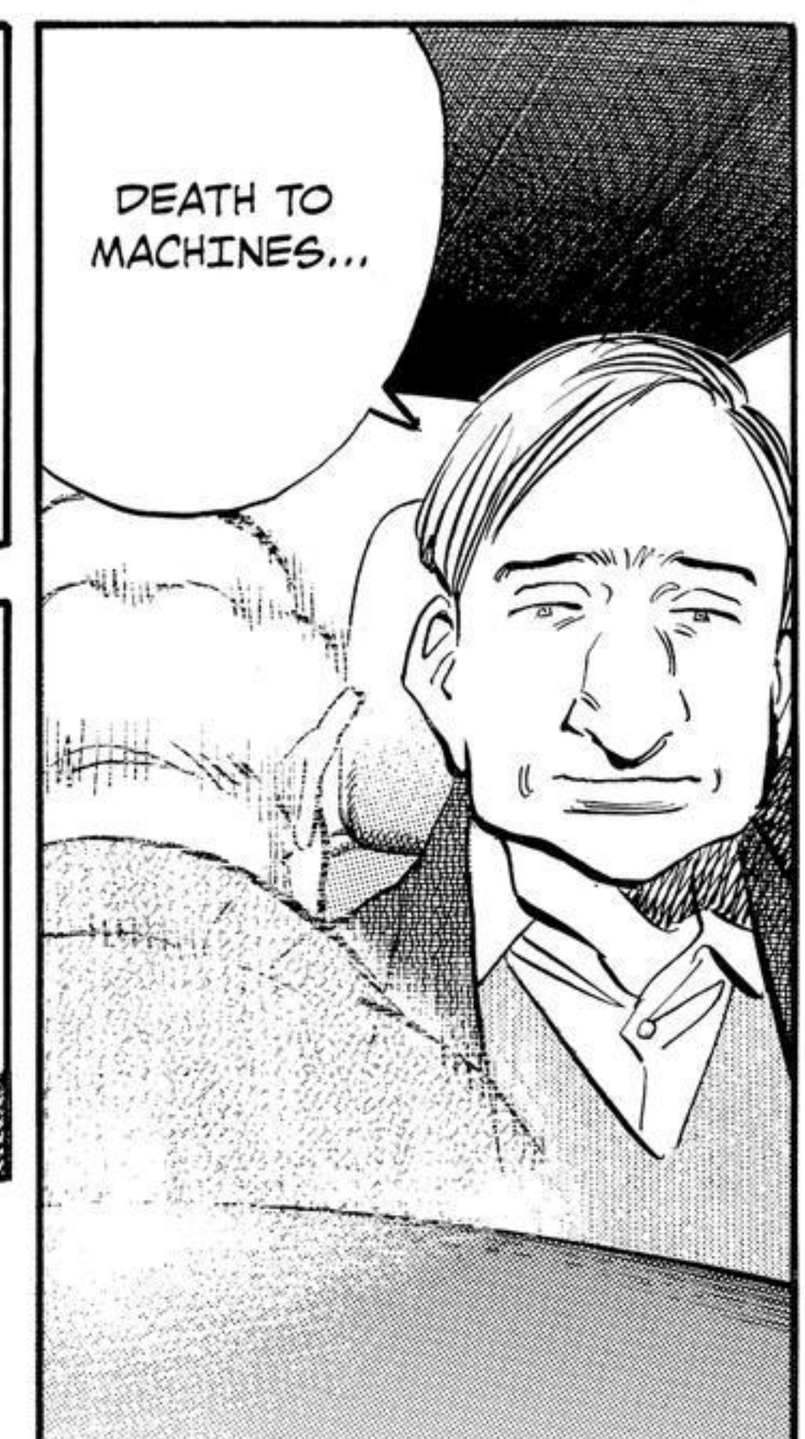
MORNING, ADOLF...


DEATH TO MACHINES ...


SORRY, MAKE THAT THE ERADICATION OF ONE...
ABOUT THE DEATH OF THE FAMED ROBOT JUDGE...

ANY MORE LEADS ON THE SHELL THAT WAS USED?
ACTUALLY, I'M MORE INTERESTED IN LEARNING THE CAUSE OF YOUR BROTHER'S DEATH...

BUT I PLAN TO STOP BY THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE THIS AFTERNOON...
WELL, I'VE GOT SOME BUSINESS THAT I'VE GOT TO TAKE CARE OF FIRST...


DEATH TO MACHINES...

WELL, I'M GONNA MAKE ***SURE*** I GET HIM...

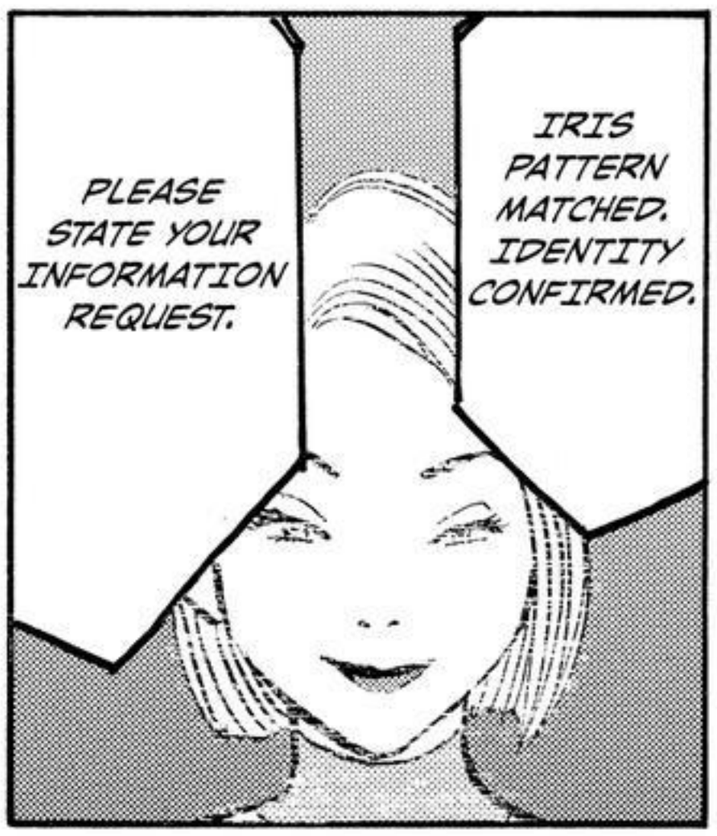
I CAN TELL YOU THIS... WHOEVER BLEW MY BROTHER AWAY WITH A ZERONIUM SHELL...

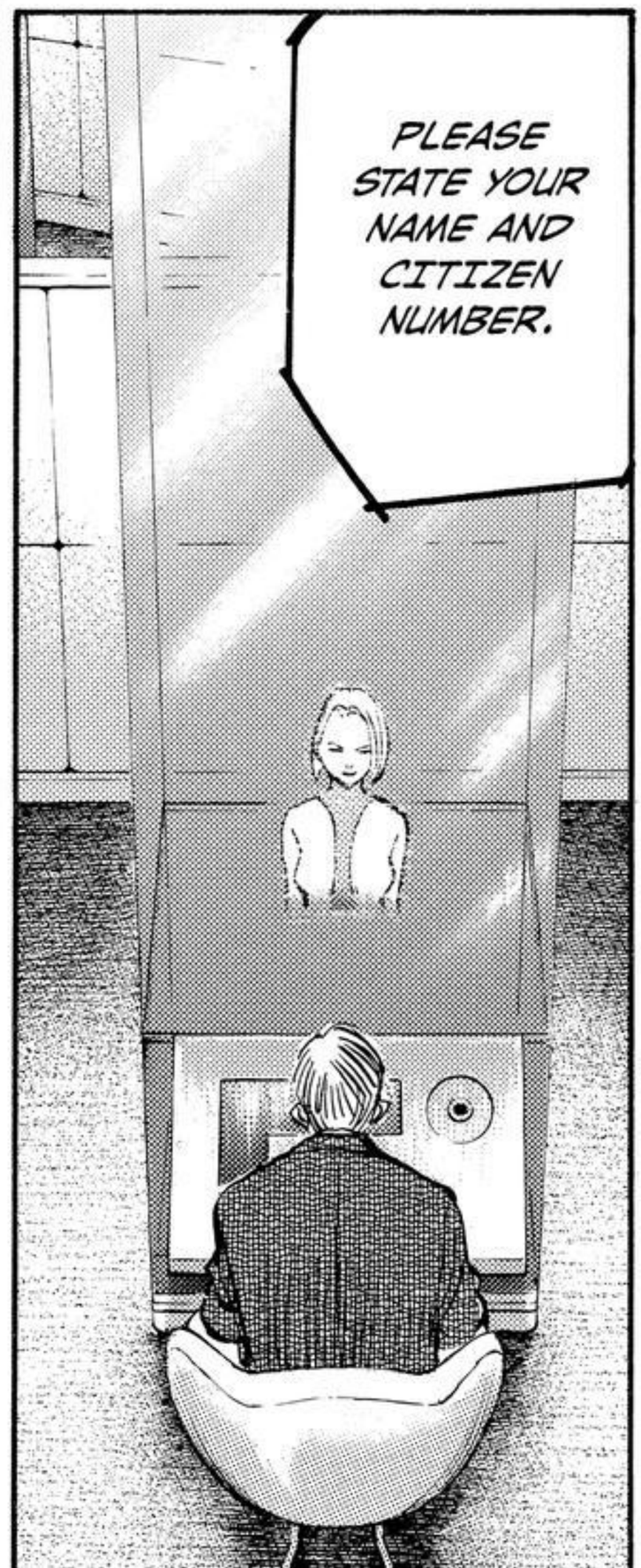
DÜSSELDORF, EURO FEDERATION

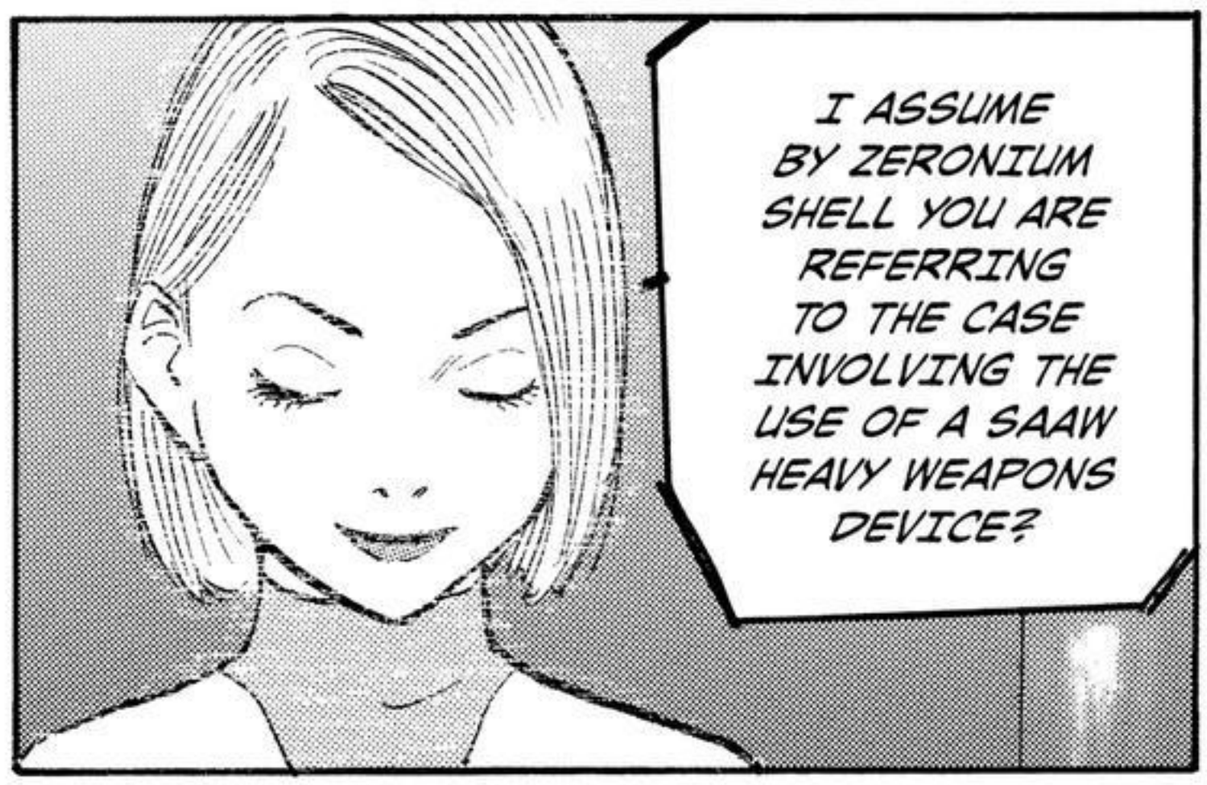
Act 18
ZERONIUM

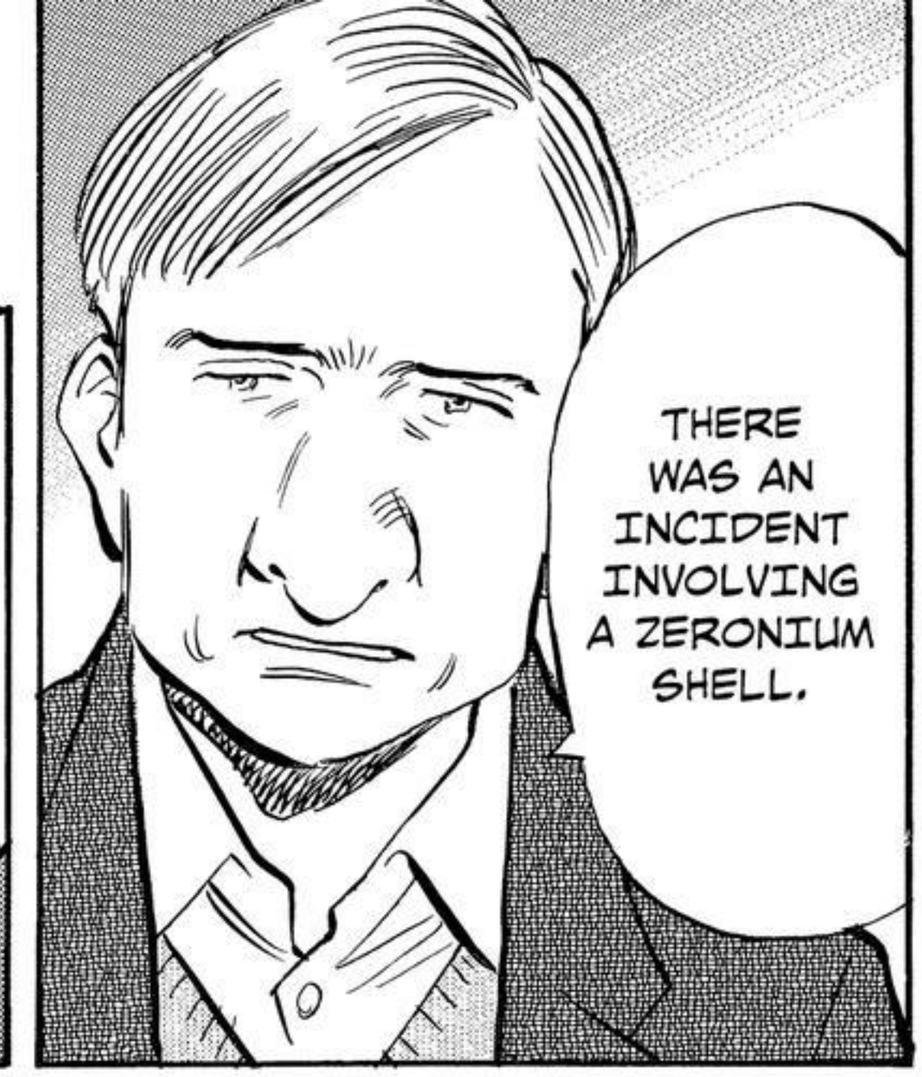
OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

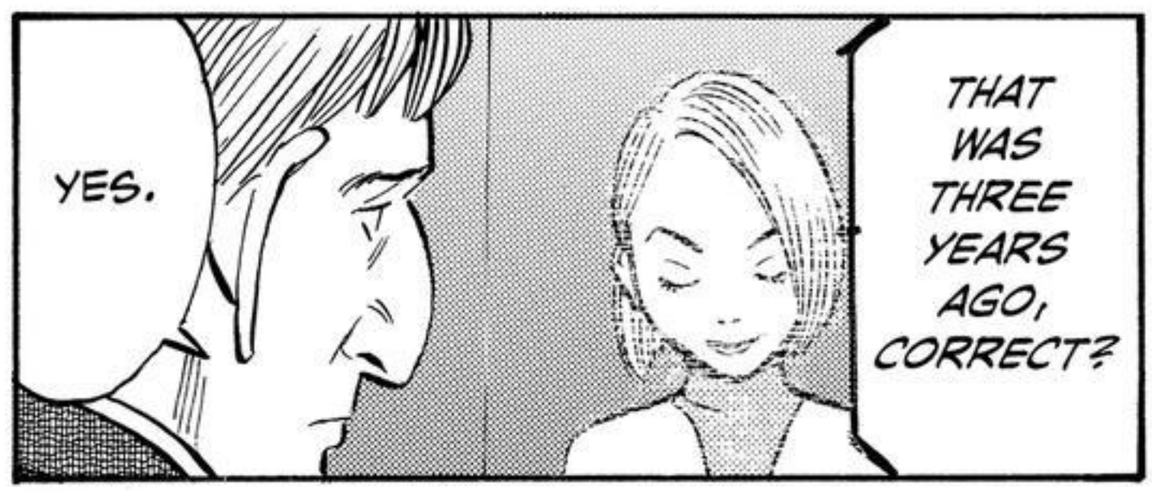
EURO FEDERATION, MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

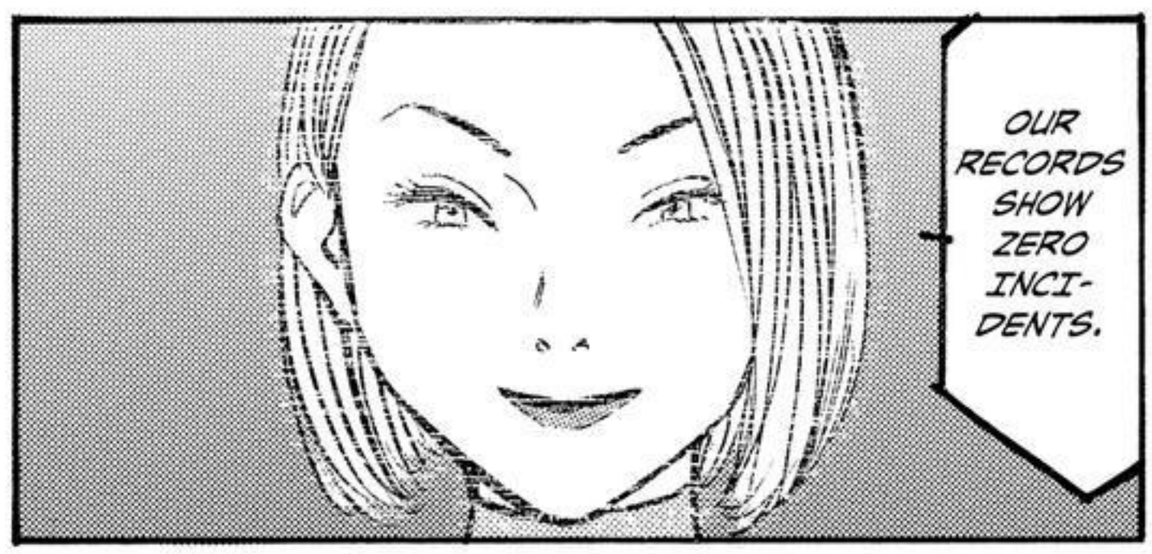


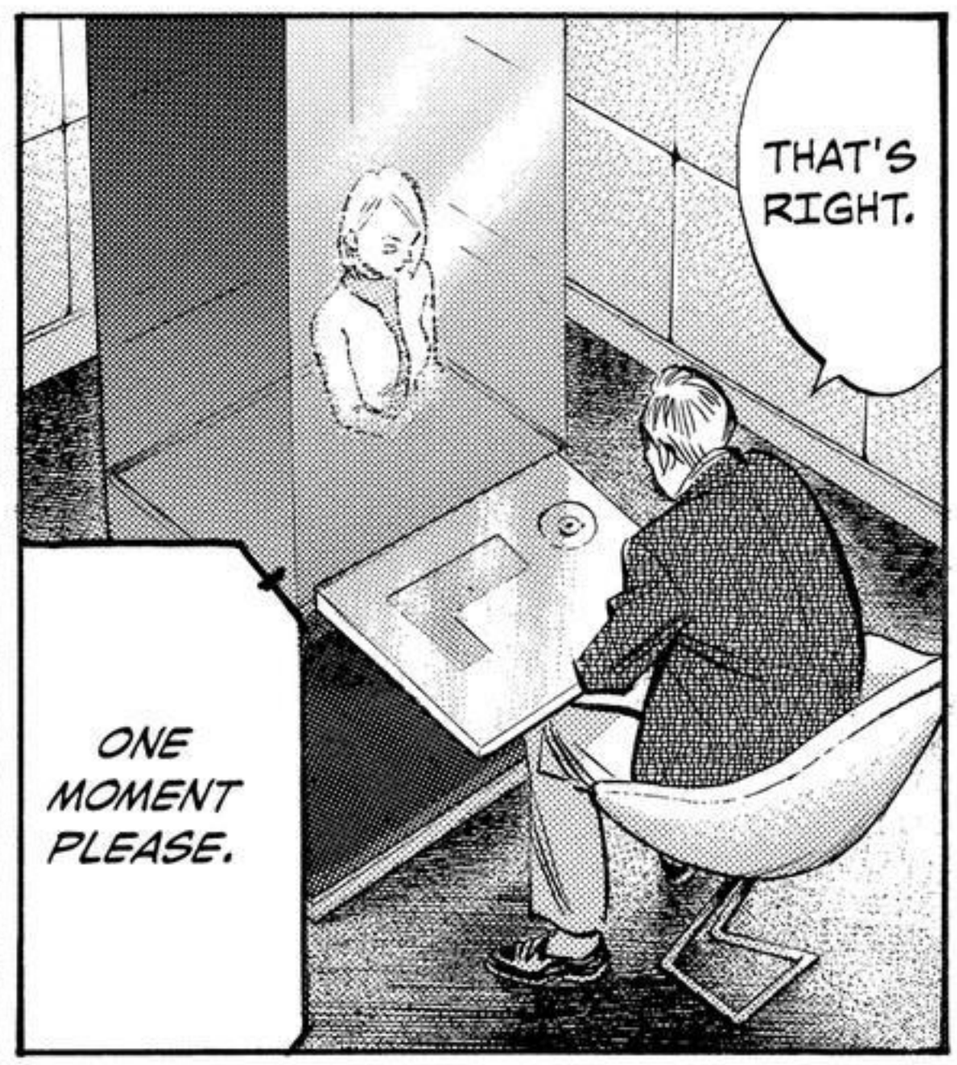



I ASSUME BY ZERONIUM SHELL YOU ARE REFERRING TO THE CASE INVOLVING THE USE OF A SAAW HEAVY WEAPONS DEVICE?


THERE WAS AN INCIDENT INVOLVING A ZERONIUM SHELL.

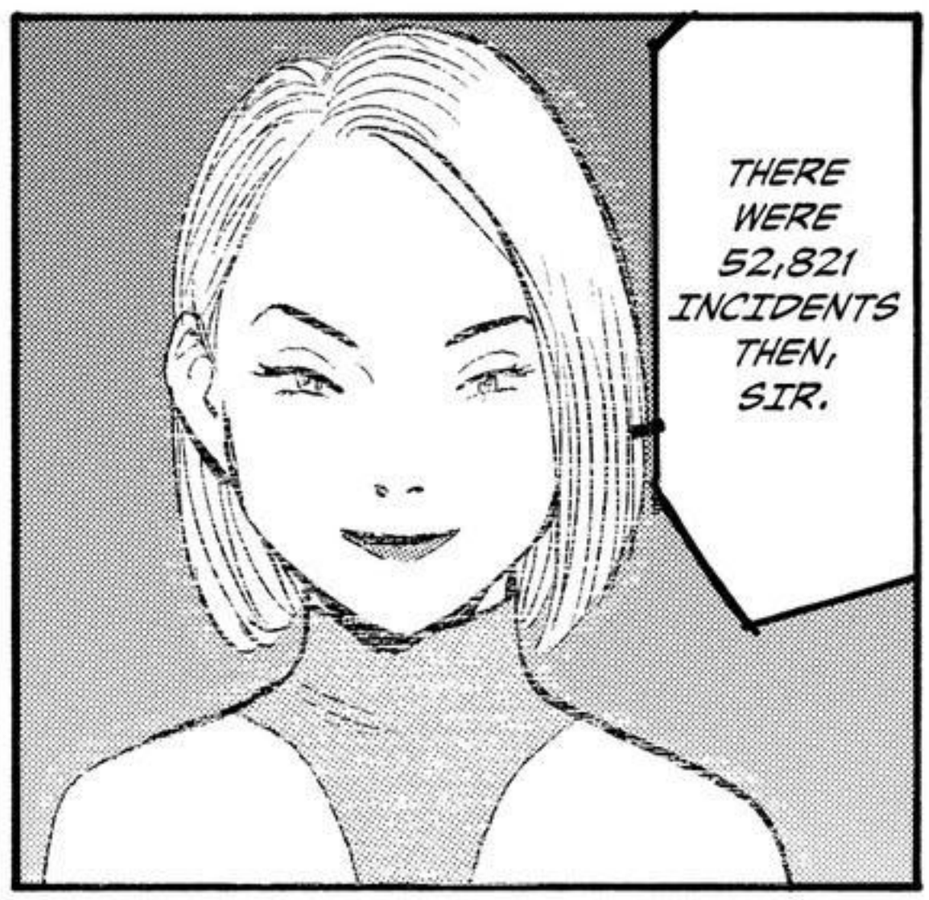

YES.
THAT WAS THREE YEARS AGO, CORRECT?


OUR RECORDS SHOW ZERO INCI-DENTS.

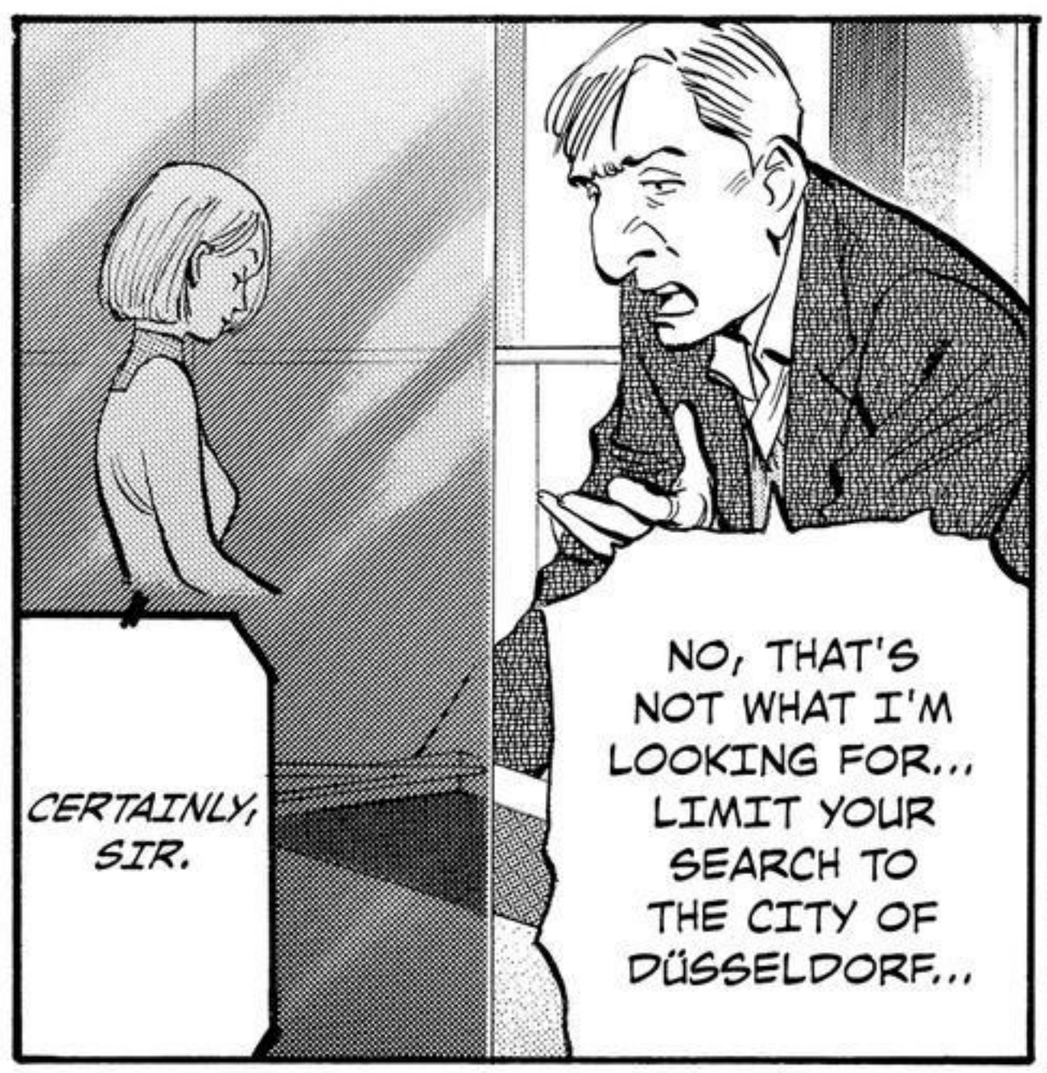

THAT'S RIGHT.
ONE MOMENT PLEASE.

I HAVE ZERO INCI-DENTS, SIR.
ZERO?! B-BUT THAT CAN'T BE!!

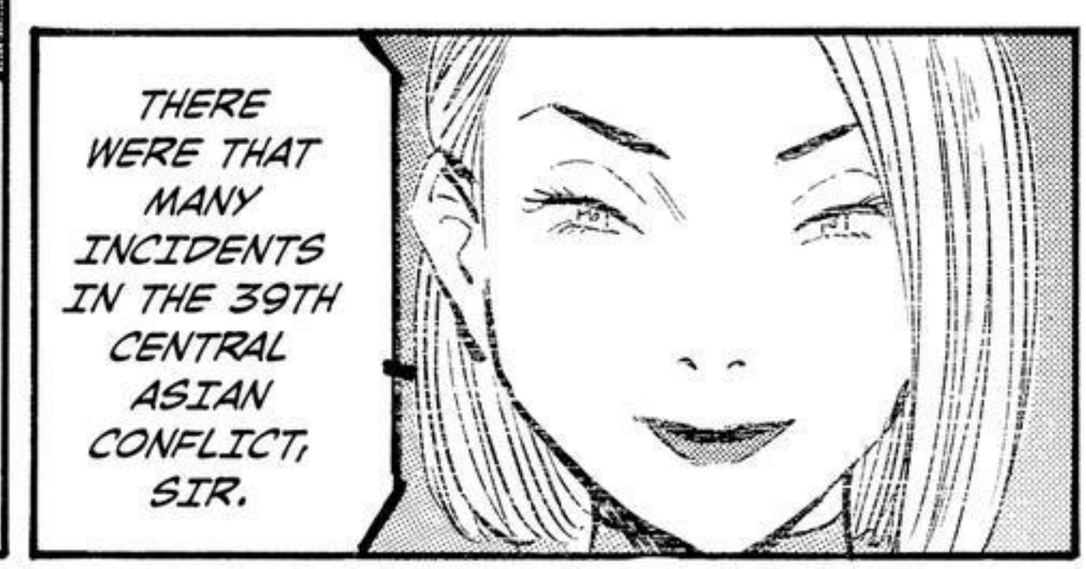
ZERO INCI-DENTS, SIR.
LOOK! I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT ANYTHING WHERE A SAAW... NO, MAKE THAT A ZERONIUM SHELL... WAS USED!!


THERE WERE 52,821 INCIDENTS THEN, SIR.

FOUR YEARS AGO, CORRECT?
WAIT! UMM... HOW ABOUT FOUR YEARS AGO?!!

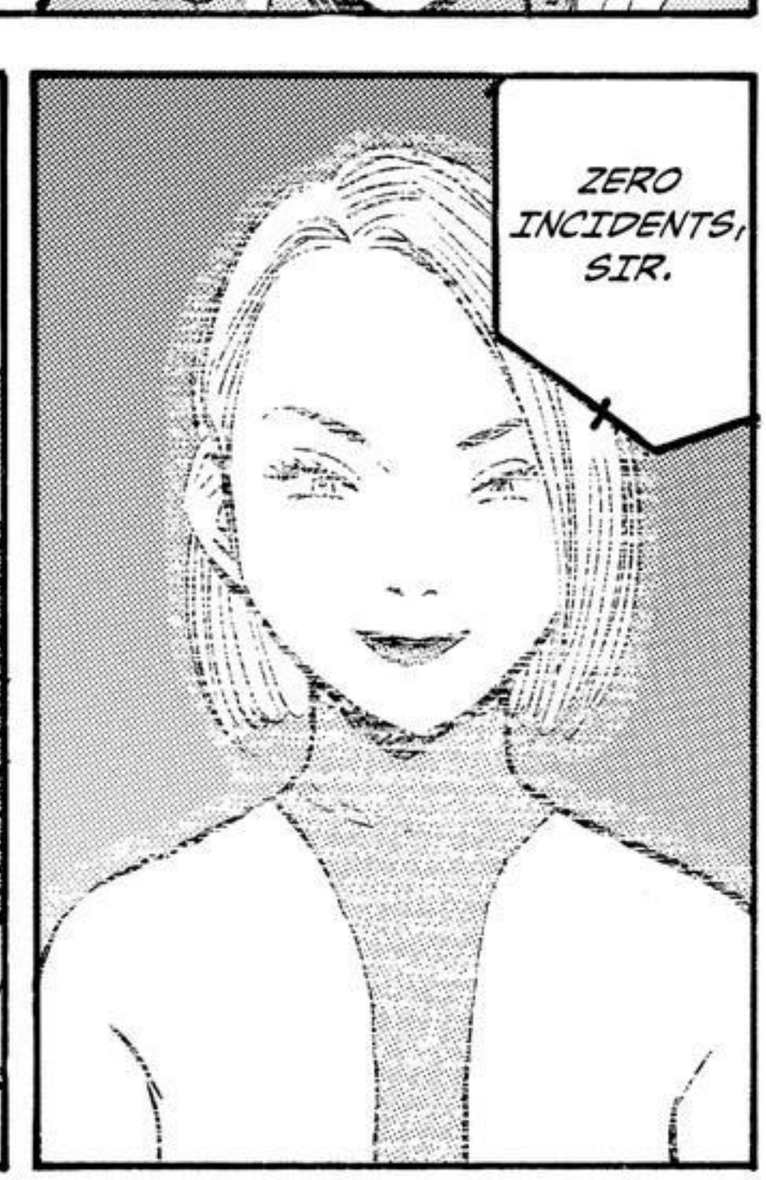

CERTAINLY, SIR.
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR... LIMIT YOUR SEARCH TO THE CITY OF DÜSSELDORF...

WHA--? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?


THERE WERE THAT MANY INCIDENTS IN THE 39TH CENTRAL ASIAN CONFLICT, SIR.

WELL, THEN... HOW ABOUT ANY INCIDENTS UP TO THE PRESENT?

...


ZERO INCIDENTS, SIR.

THAT'S *IMPOSSIBLE*!!

ZERO INCIDENTS.

JUST A MOMENT, SIR.

JUST A MOMENT PLEASE...

MY *BROTHER* WAS KILLED IN DÜSSELDORF THREE YEARS AGO...!

LAST NIGHT AT 21:07 HOURS.

WHEN DID IT OCCUR?

JUST NOW...?

A SINGLE INCIDENT WAS JUST REPORTED NOW, SIR.

WHO...?

A ZERONIUM SHELL...?

THAT'S CORRECT.

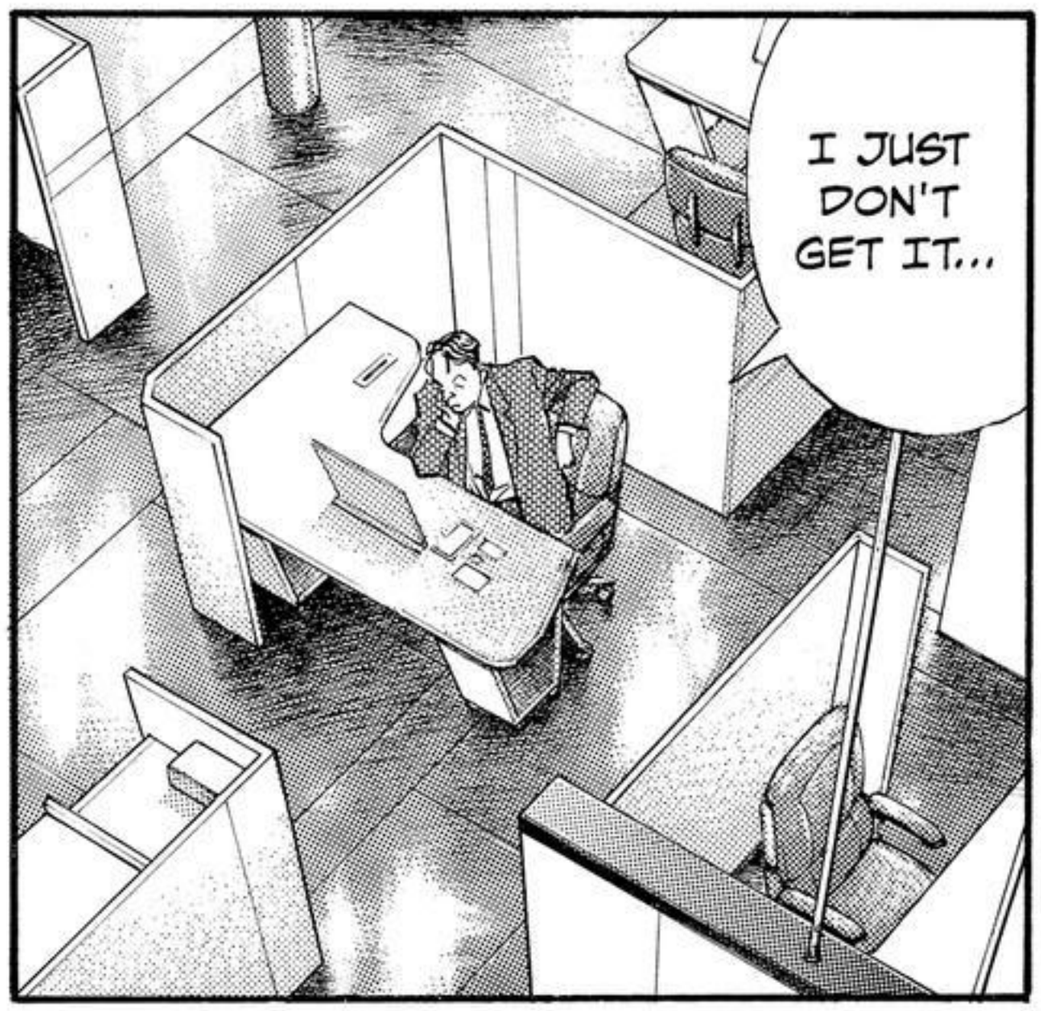
...THAT INFORMATION CANNOT BE RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC.

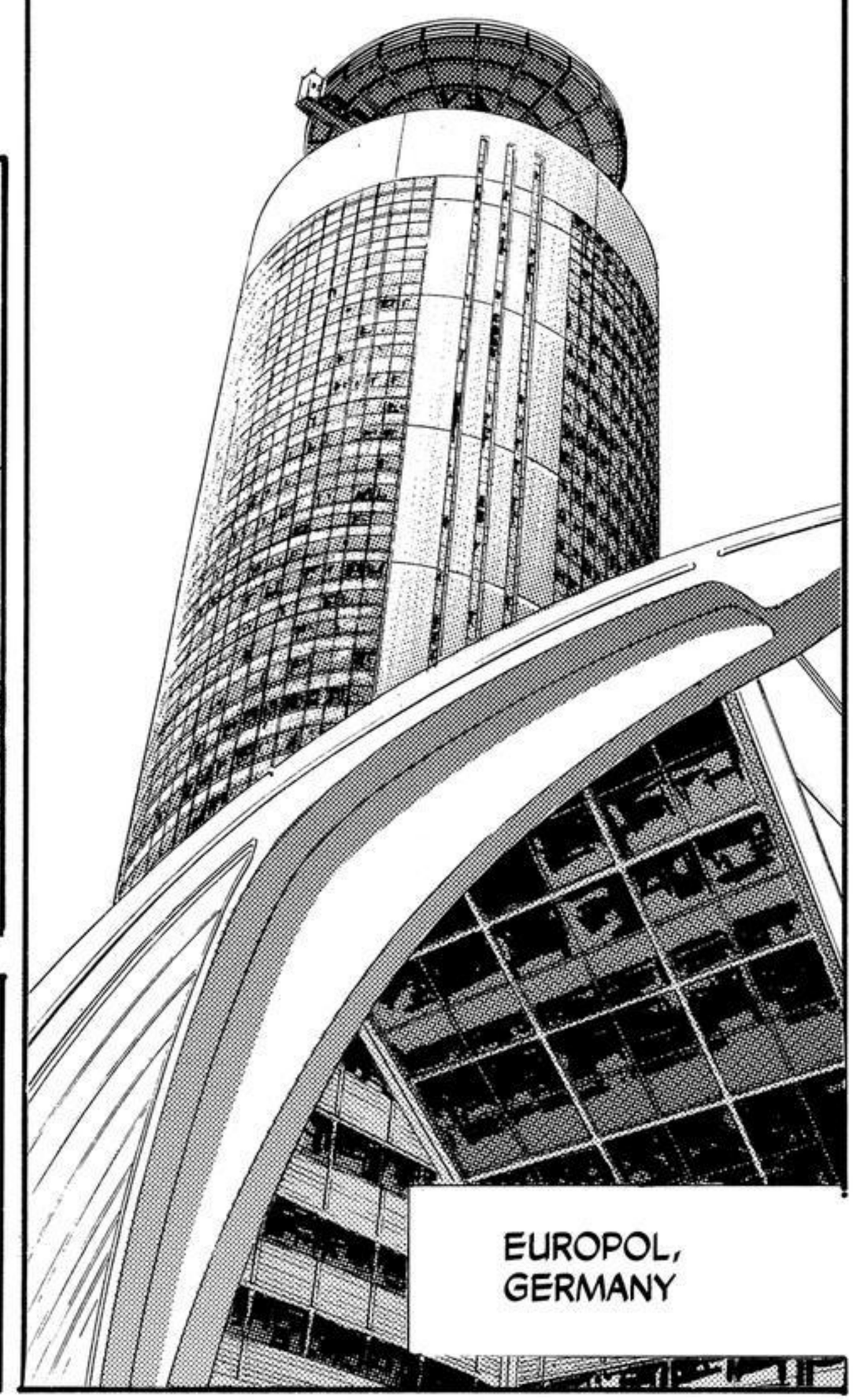
IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION M-81 ARTICLE 57 OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT...

WHO USED THE WEAPON...?

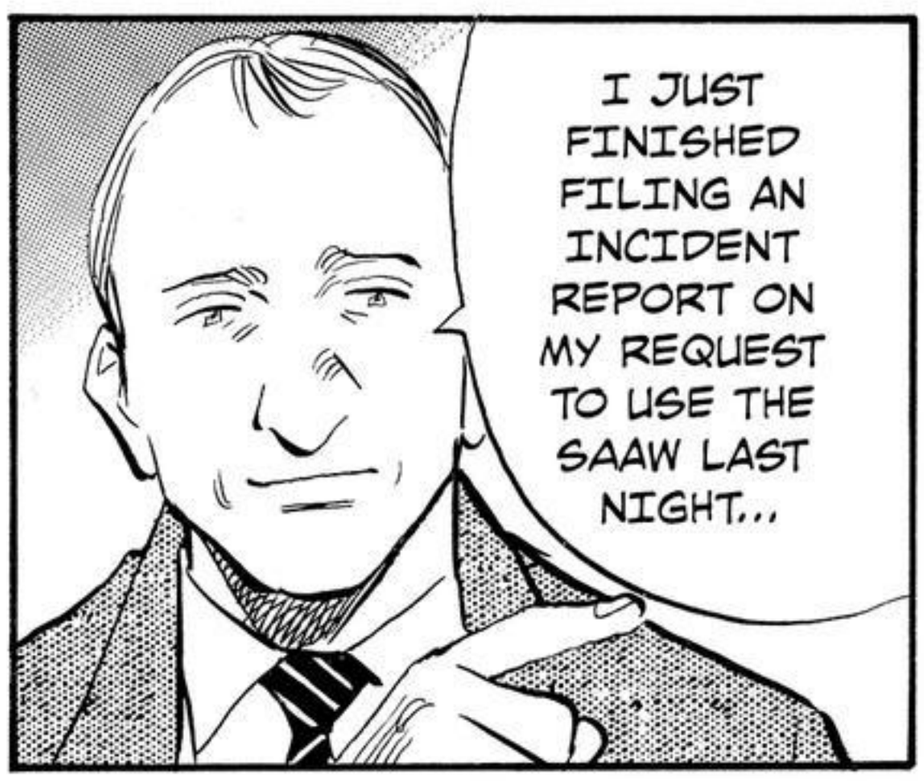
IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION M-81, ARTICLE 57 OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT...

DAMN IT! WHO WAS IT!!!?


I JUST DON'T GET IT...


EUROPOL, GERMANY

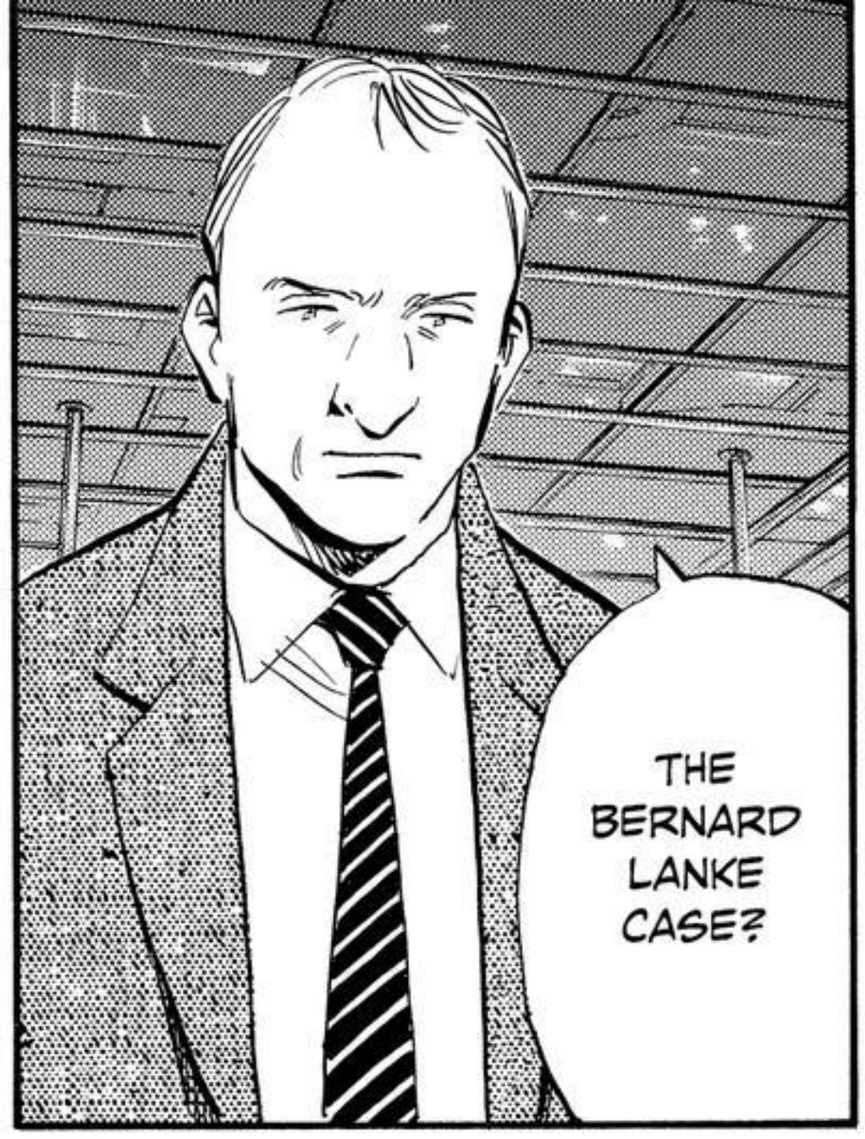
WHAT'S THE MATTER, DETECTIVE LIEMAN?


I JUST FINISHED FILING AN INCIDENT REPORT ON MY REQUEST TO USE THE SAAW LAST NIGHT...

OH, GESICHT... WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE ON VACATION?

BUT ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU LOOK A LITTLE DEPRESSED...
NOT REALLY ...

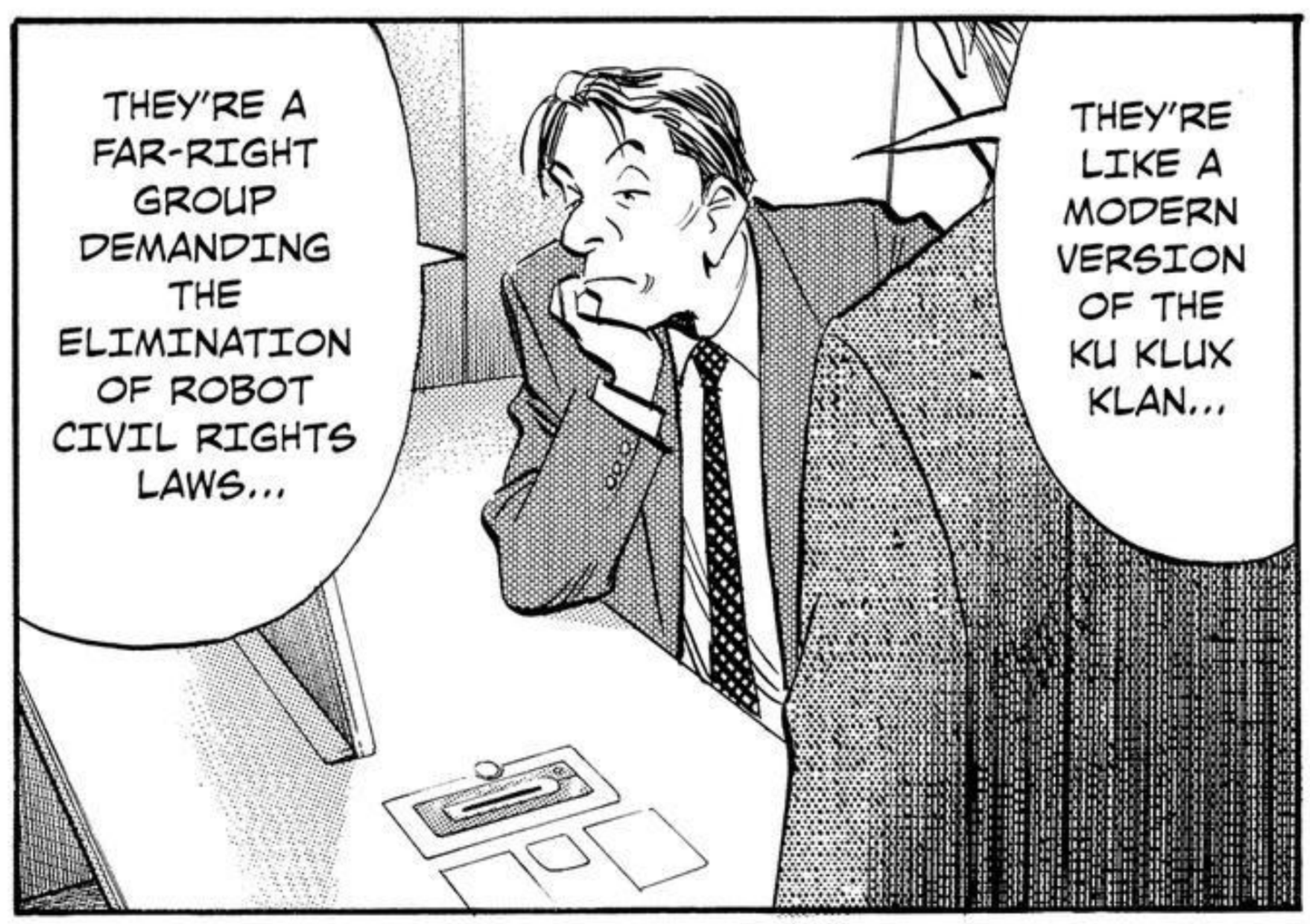
THEY SAY YOU STOPPED A BUNCH OF GANG MEMBERS IN AN ARMORED VEHICLE... WITH JUST ONE BLAST... PRETTY IMPRESSIVE, I'D SAY...


THE BERNARD LANKE CASE?

YEAH, IM WORKING ON THE CASE OF THAT LEADER IN THE ROBOT RIGHTS MOVEMENT, THE ONE WHO WAS MURDERED...

YEAH... THEY'VE GOT ME INVESTIGATING A GROUP ON THE OPPOSITE END OF THE IDEOLOGICAL SPECTRUM...

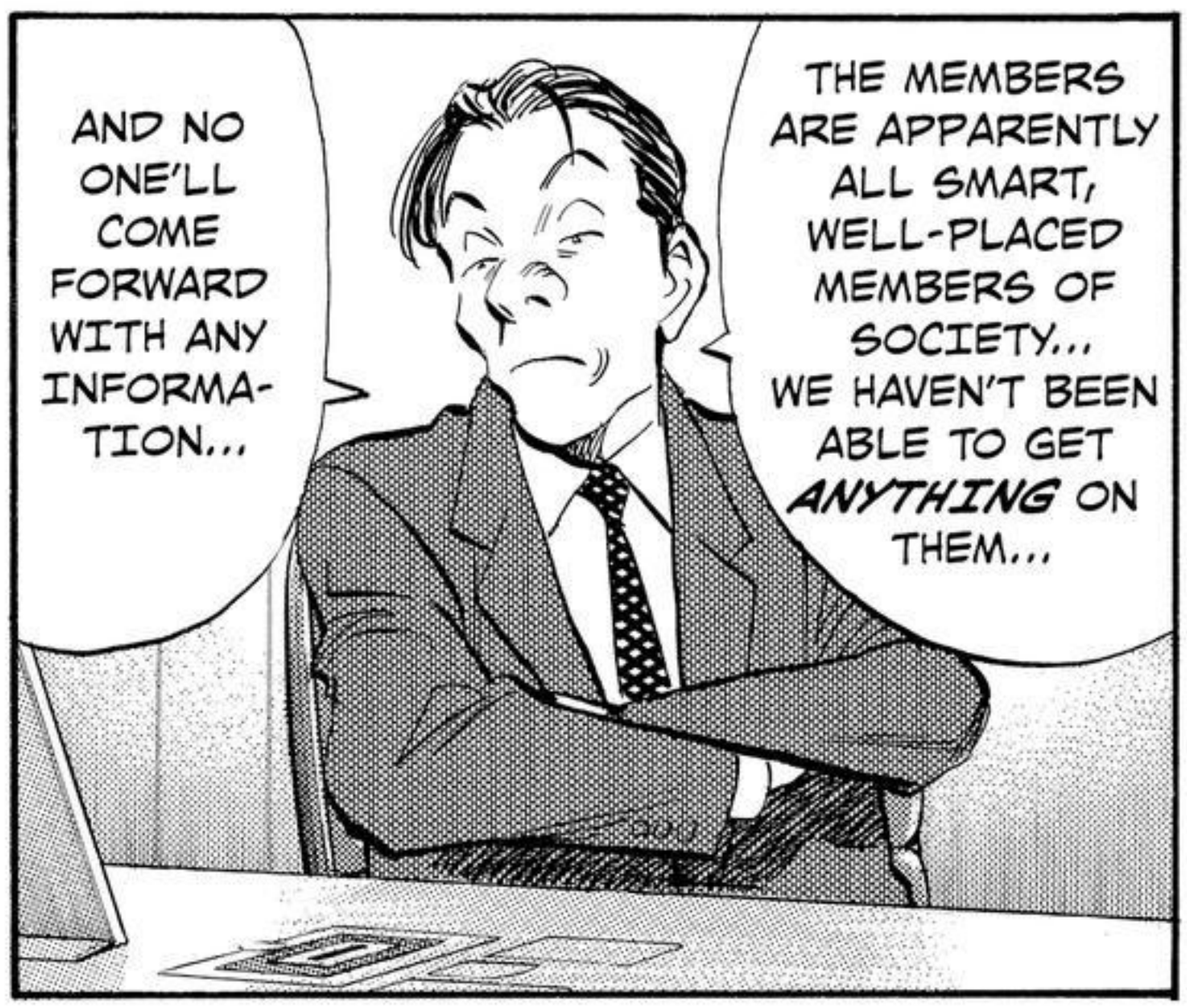
YOU EVER HEAR OF A GROUP CALLED THE "KR"?


THEY'RE A FAR-RIGHT GROUP DEMANDING THE ELIMINATION OF ROBOT CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS...
THEY'RE LIKE A MODERN VERSION OF THE KU KLUX KLAN...

SORRY ...
IT'S OKAY, DETECTIVE ...

OH...

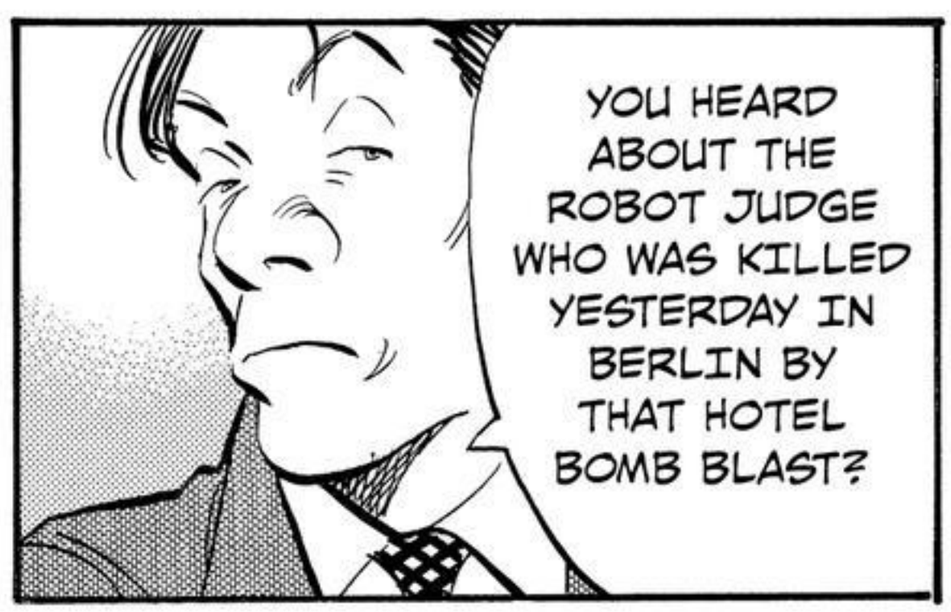
CAN'T ARGUE WITH THAT, I SUPPOSE ...
THEY BASE ALL THIS STUFF ON THE IDEA THAT ROBOTS DON'T HAVE SOULS...


AND NO ONE'LL COME FORWARD WITH ANY INFORMATION...
THE MEMBERS ARE APPARENTLY ALL SMART, WELL-PLACED MEMBERS OF SOCIETY... WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET *ANYTHING* ON THEM...

SO HOW'S THE INVESTIGATION GOING?

NOT TOO WELL, I'M AFRAID...

YEAH... ALL OF OUR SOURCES ON THAT CASE HAVE CLAMMED UP...


YOU HEARD ABOUT THE ROBOT JUDGE WHO WAS KILLED YESTERDAY IN BERLIN BY THAT HOTEL BOMB BLAST?

JUDGE NEUMAN...

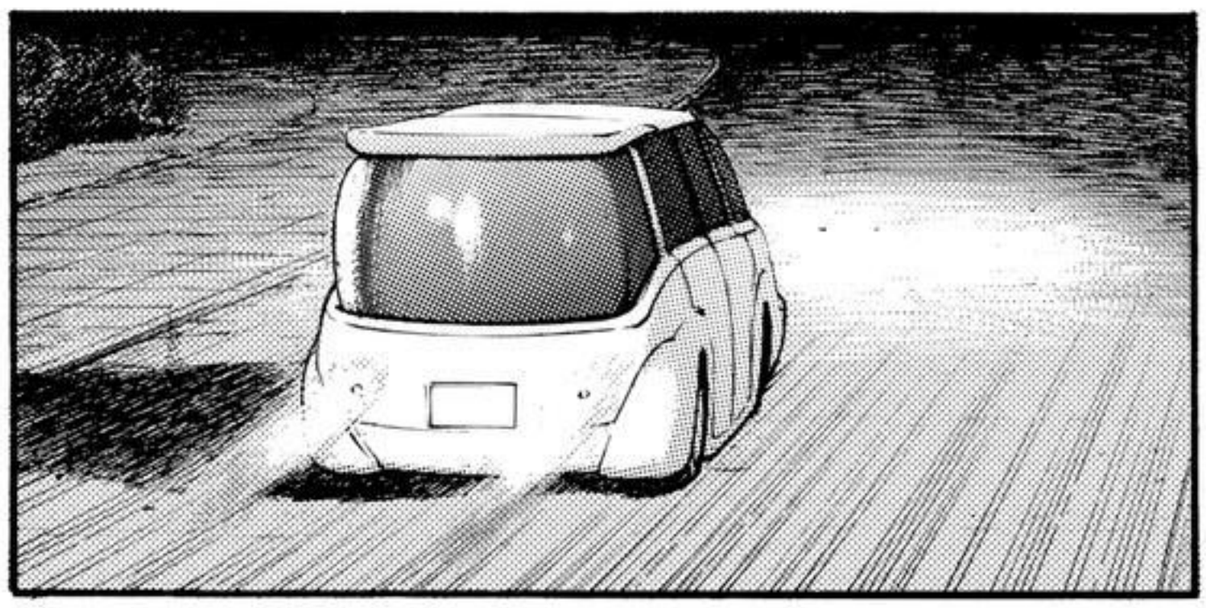
...BUT I MUSTN'T GET INVOLVED IN THAT CASE...

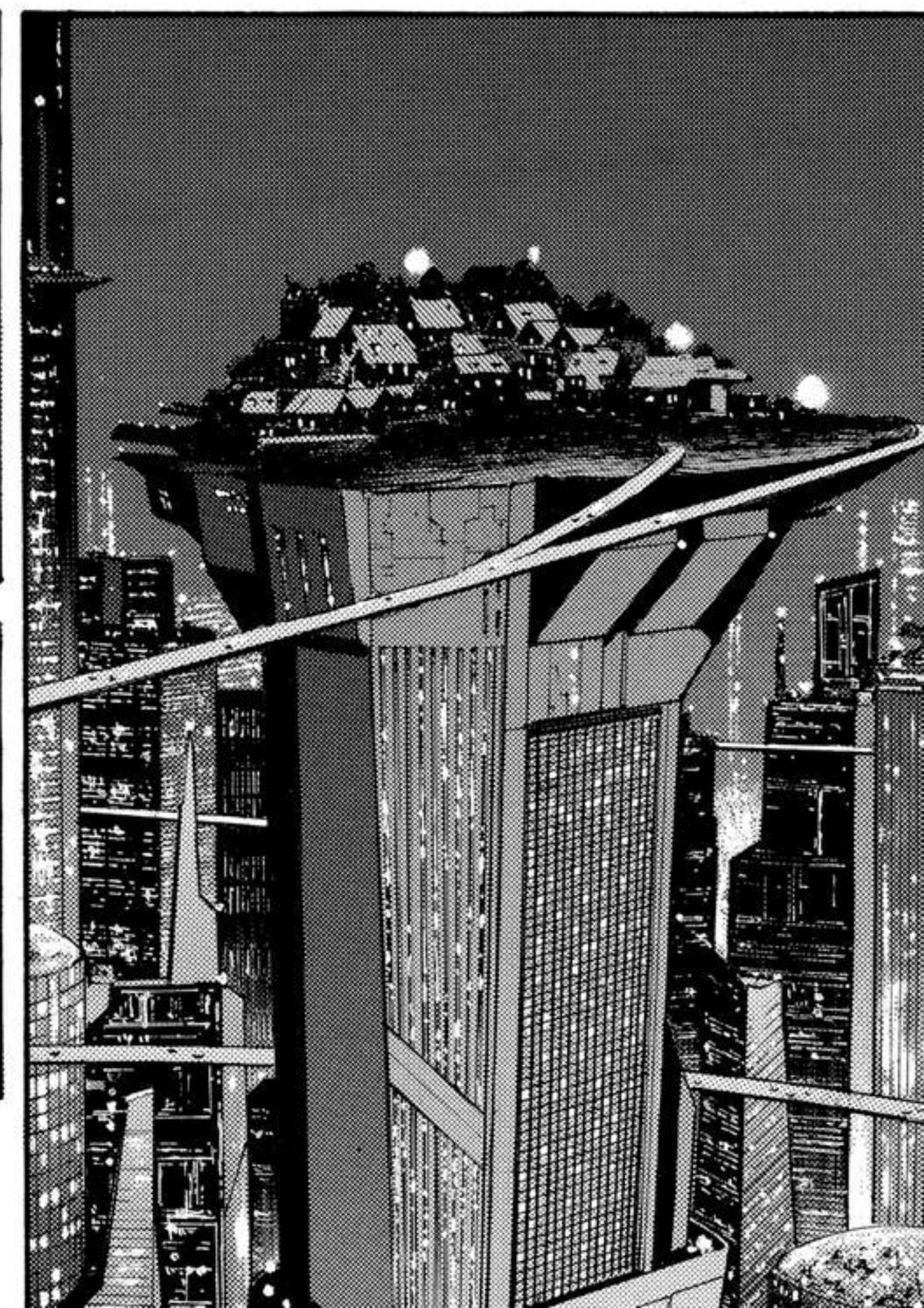
WELL, I'D LOVE TO HELP YOU OUT...

I HAVE A FEELING WE'RE NOT GONNA MAKE ANY PROGRESS FOR A WHILE...

BUT HECK, YOU REALLY OUGHTA TAKE THAT VACATION, GESICHT...

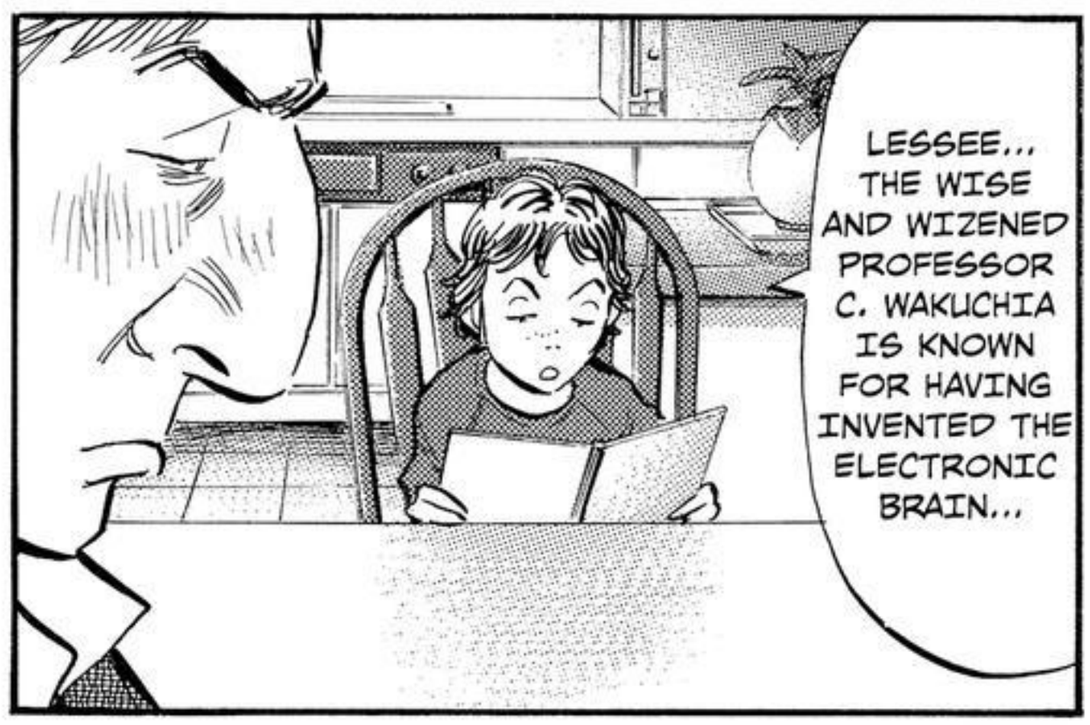
WELL SURE... THEY'RE ALL A BUNCH OF ROBOT HATERS...

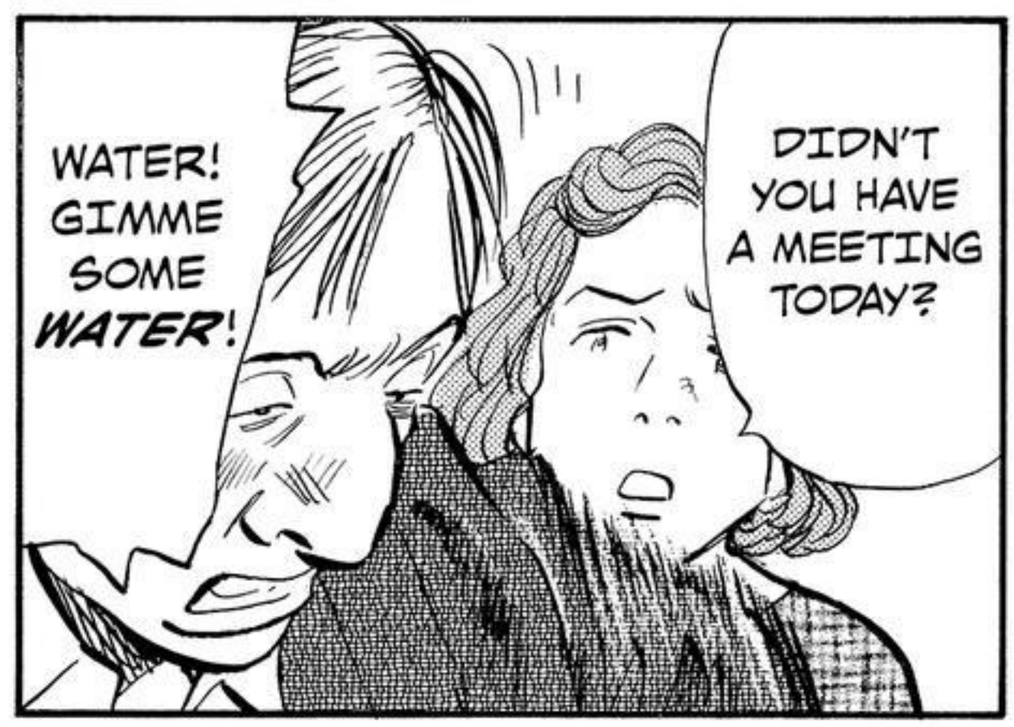


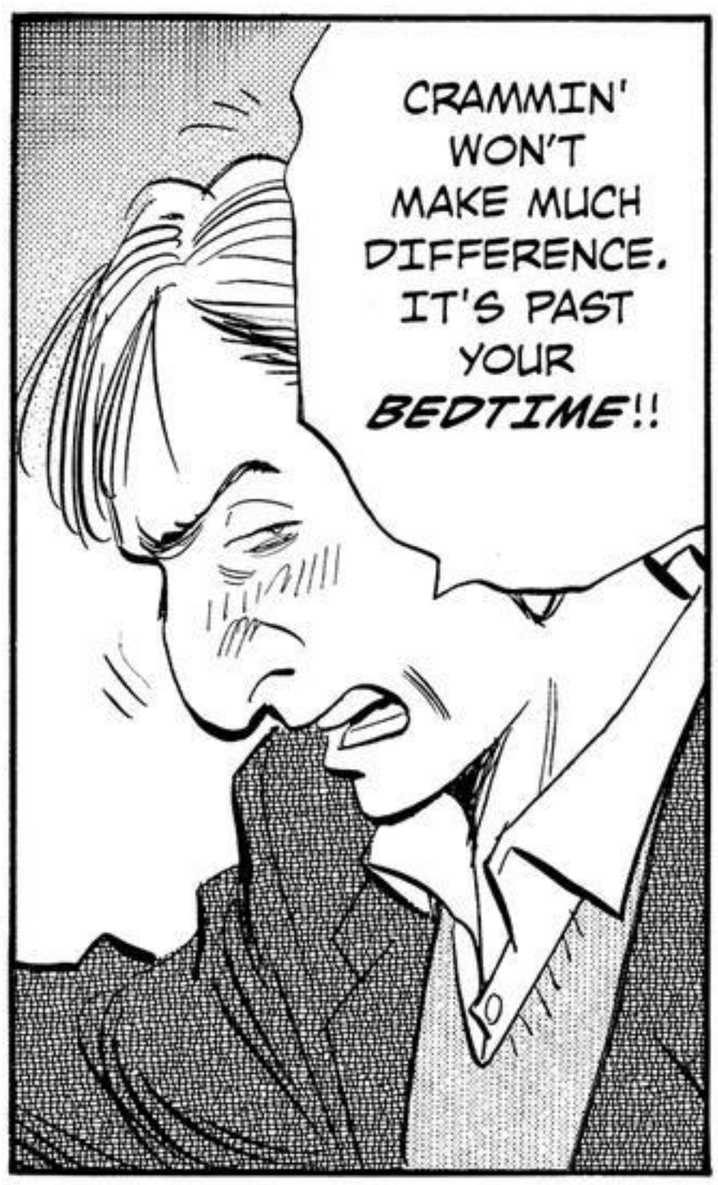


YOU'RE... YOU'RE *DRUNK*, AREN'T YOU!

I'M ALL RIGHT. LEAVE ME ALONE...







GRAB
THIS ROBOT IS--
...RECENTLY REVEALED TO BE ZERONIUM...
EUROPOL HAS MADE USE OF VERY SPECIAL ALLOYS...
HUH?
OPEN YOUR BOOK AGAIN.
WHIP
OPEN YOUR DAMNED TEXTBOOK!!

THIS ALLOY HAS BEEN RECENTLY REVEALED TO BE ZERONIUM.

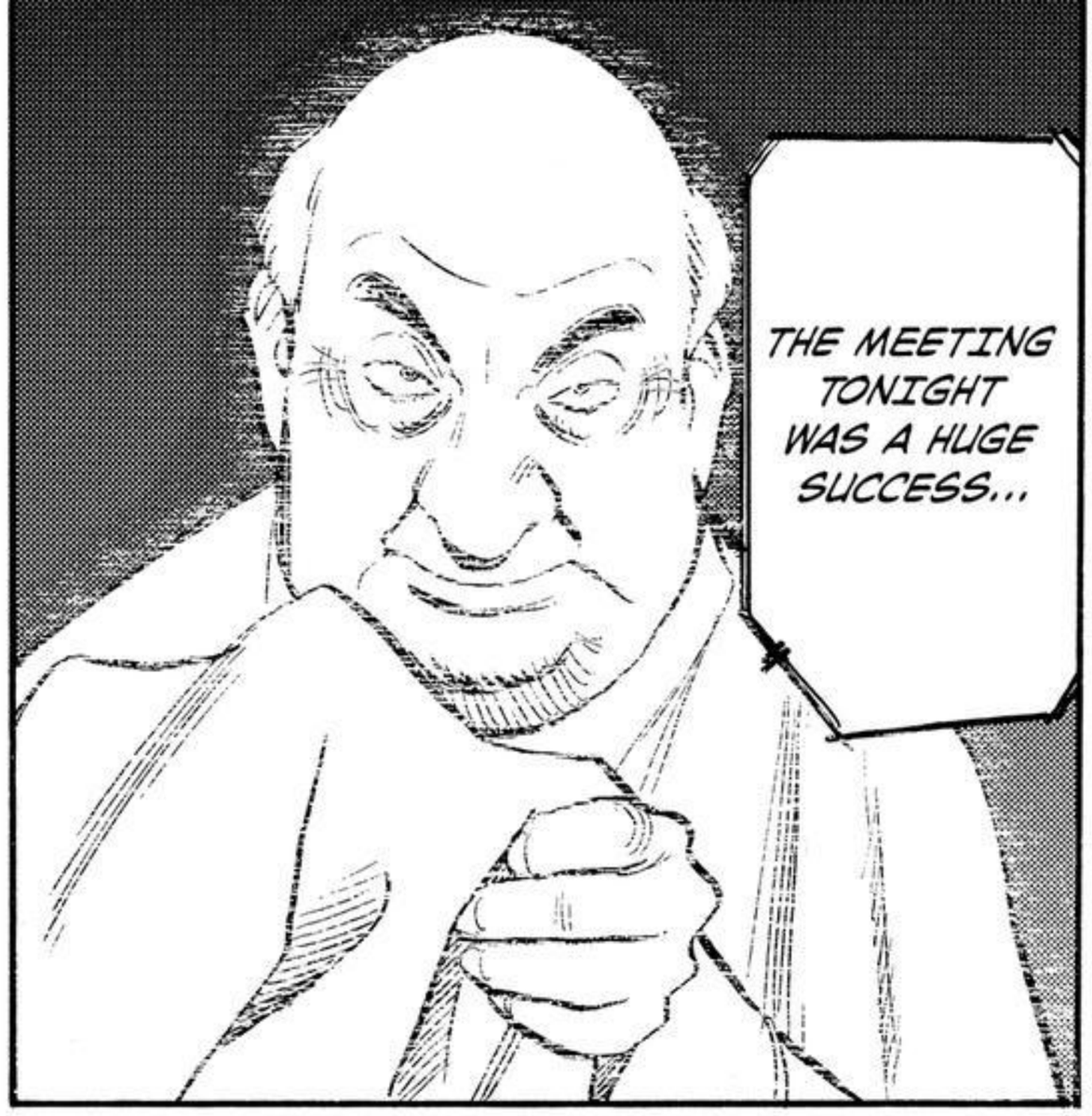
THIS ROBOT IS A POLICE ROBOT WHO PROTECTS US ALL.

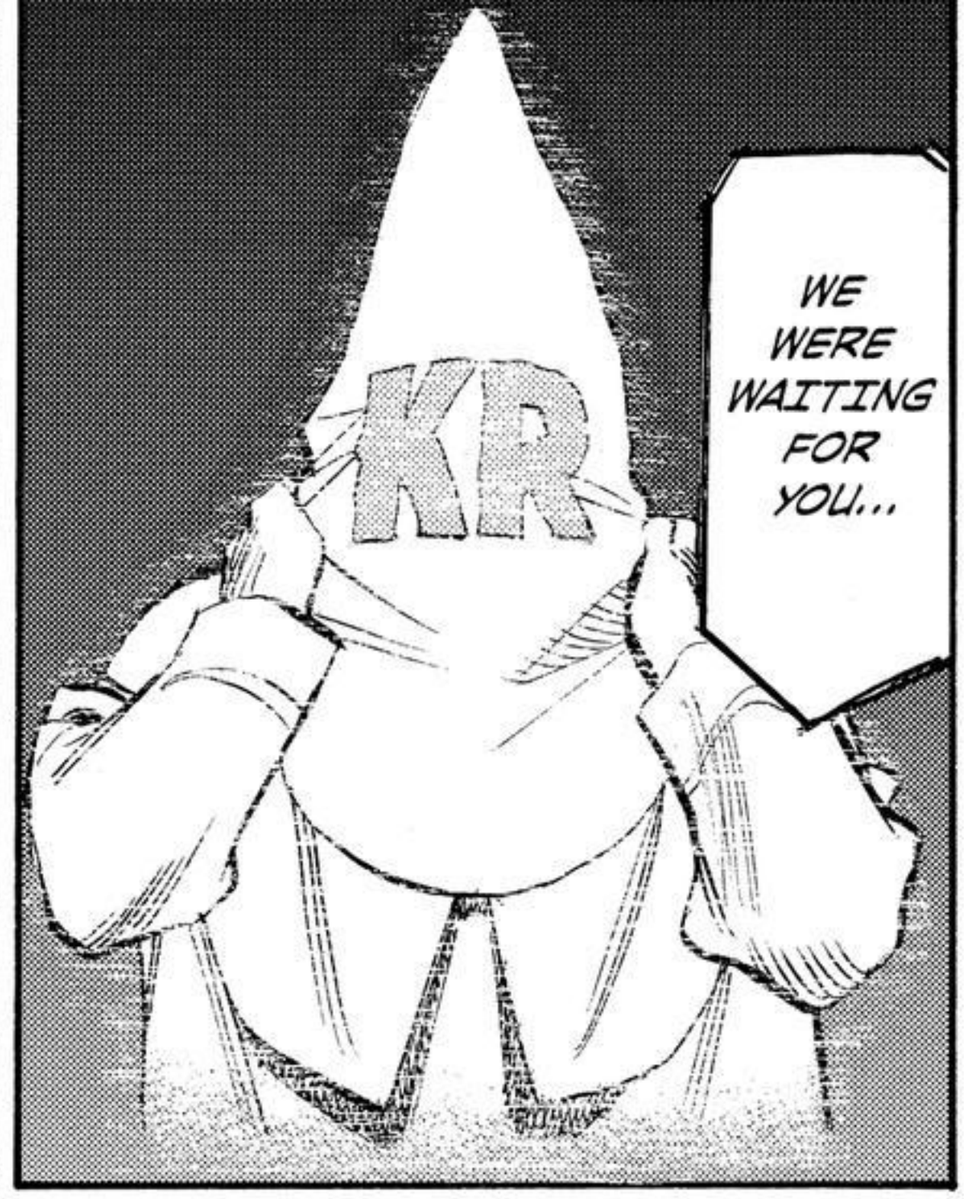
EUROPOL HAS MADE USE OF VERY SPECIAL ALLOYS TO CREATE A SINGLE, ADVANCED ROBOT.

I'LL BE DAMNED. A *POLICE ROBOT*...

HERE'S YOUR WATER, DEAR...

GOOD EVENING, ADOLF...


THE MEETING TONIGHT WAS A HUGE SUCCESS...


KR
WE WERE WAITING FOR YOU...

YEAH, IN A TEXTBOOK.

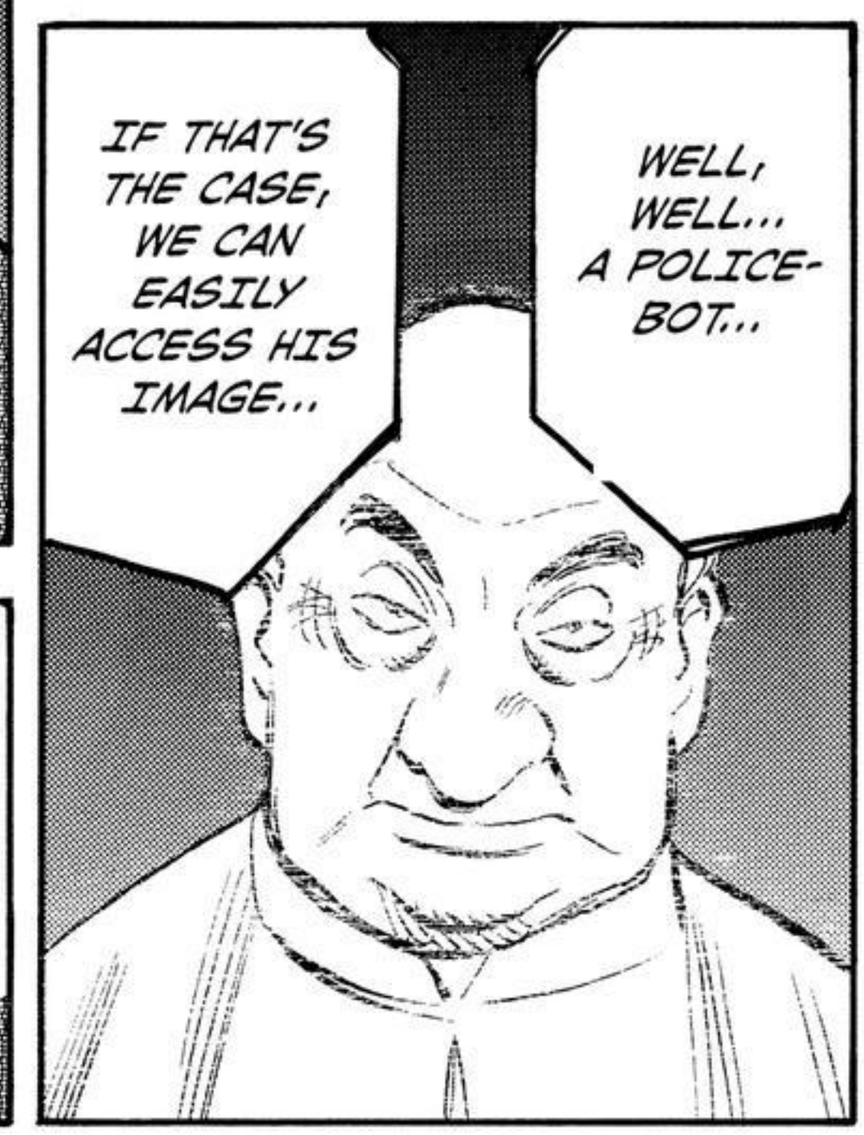
A TEXT-BOOK?

WELL, DID YOU FIND ANY LEADS?

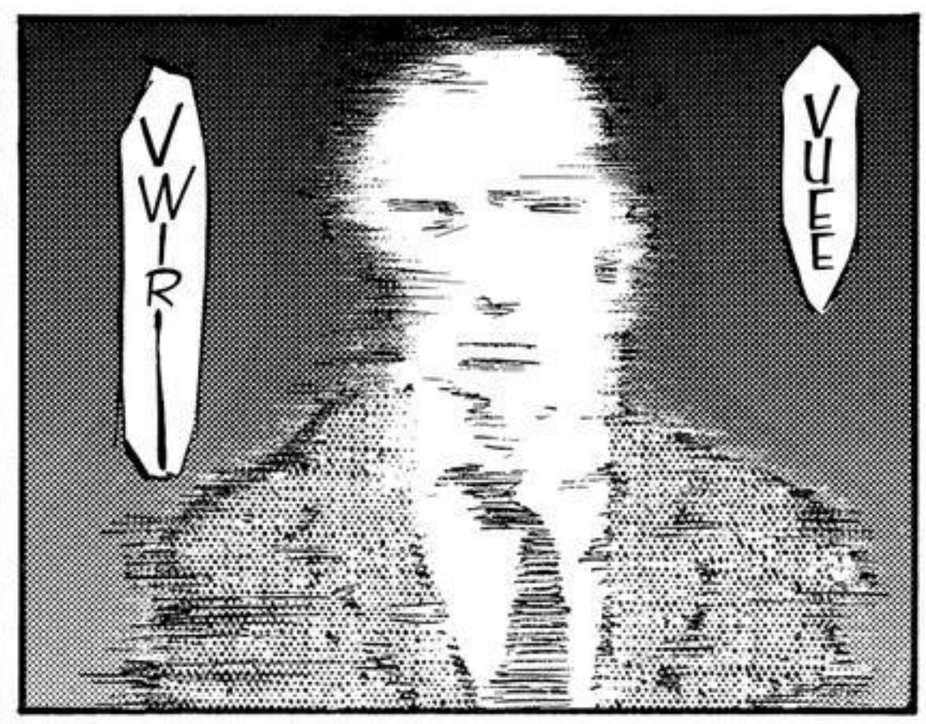
A GODDAMNED POLICE-BOT...
EUROPOL BUILT A SINGLE ROBOT OUT OF A SPECIAL ALLOY CALLED ZERONIUM...

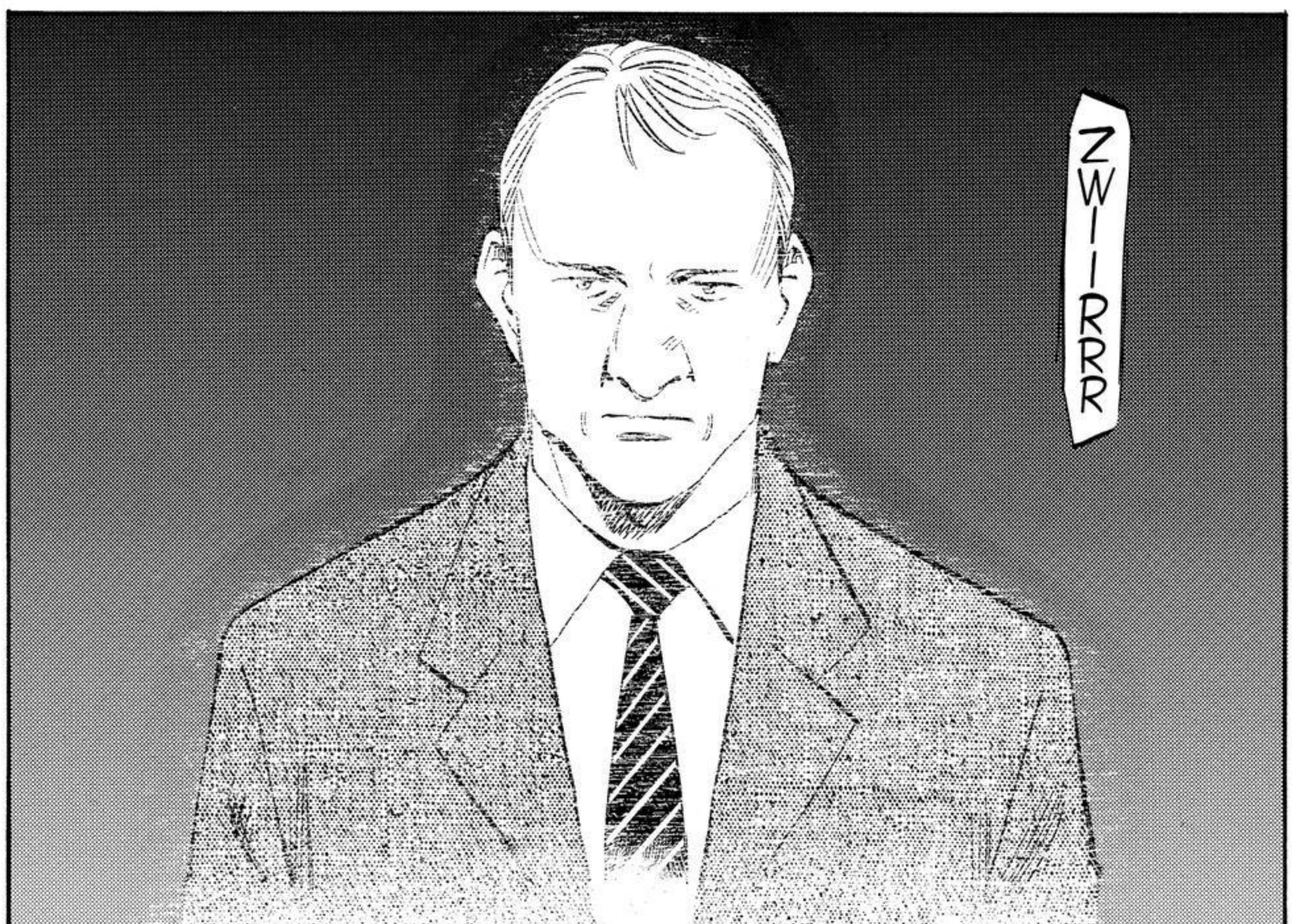
IT WAS THAT SIMPLE. RIGHT THERE IN MY KID'S SCHOOLBOOK.

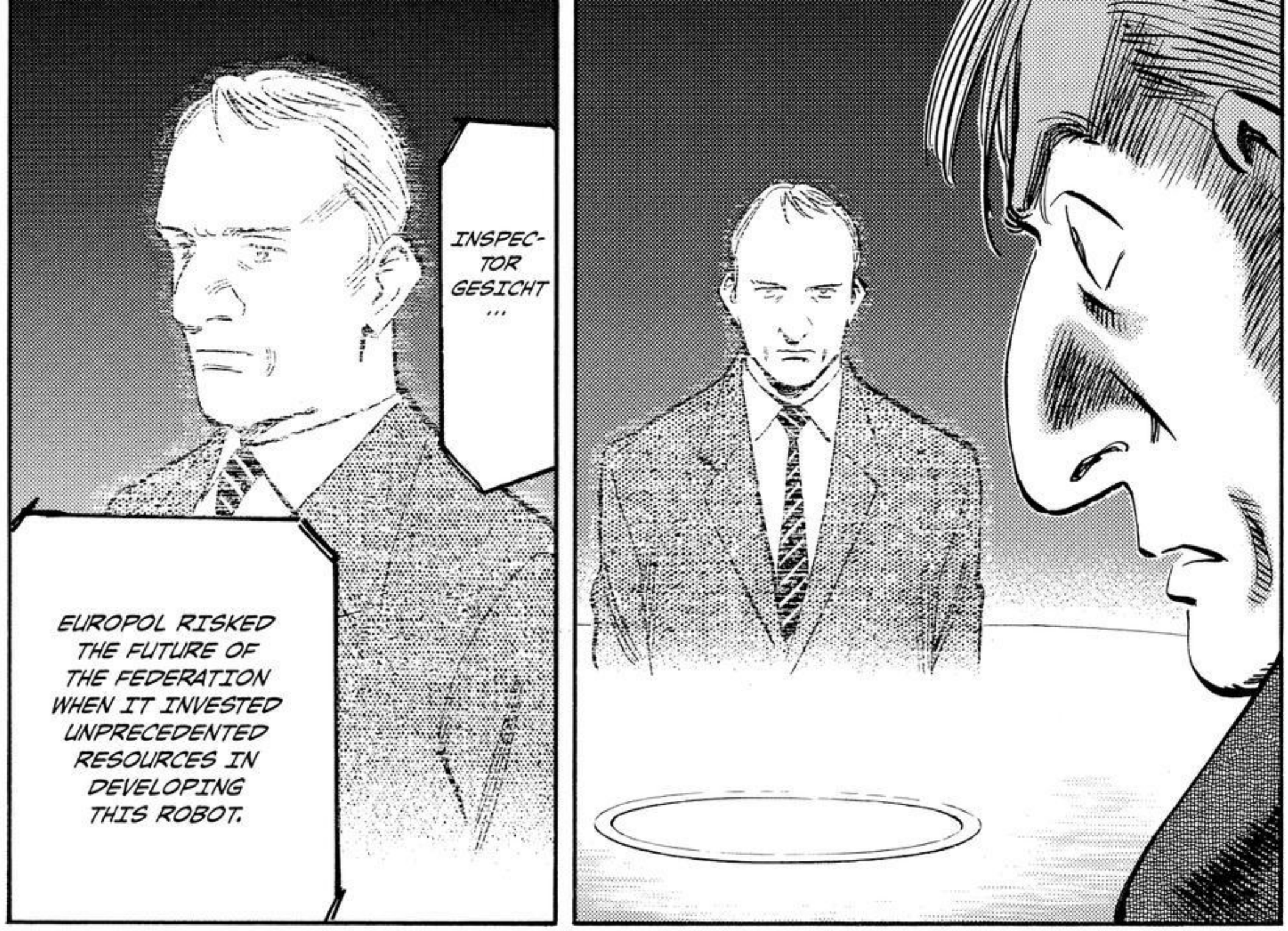
YOU WANT TO HAVE A LOOK AT HIM?


IF THAT'S THE CASE, WE CAN EASILY ACCESS HIS IMAGE...
WELL, WELL... A POLICE-BOT...

BRING HIM UP.
SURE...


VUEE
VWIR


ZWIIRRR


INSPECTOR GESICHT ...
EUROPOL RISKED THE FUTURE OF THE FEDERATION WHEN IT INVESTED UNPRECEDENTED RESOURCES IN DEVELOPING THIS ROBOT.

HE ALSO PARTICIPATED IN THE PEACEKEEPING FORCES THAT WERE SENT INTO THE 39TH CENTRAL ASIAN WAR.
HE IS SAID TO HAVE SOLVED INNUMERABLE DIFFICULT CASES.

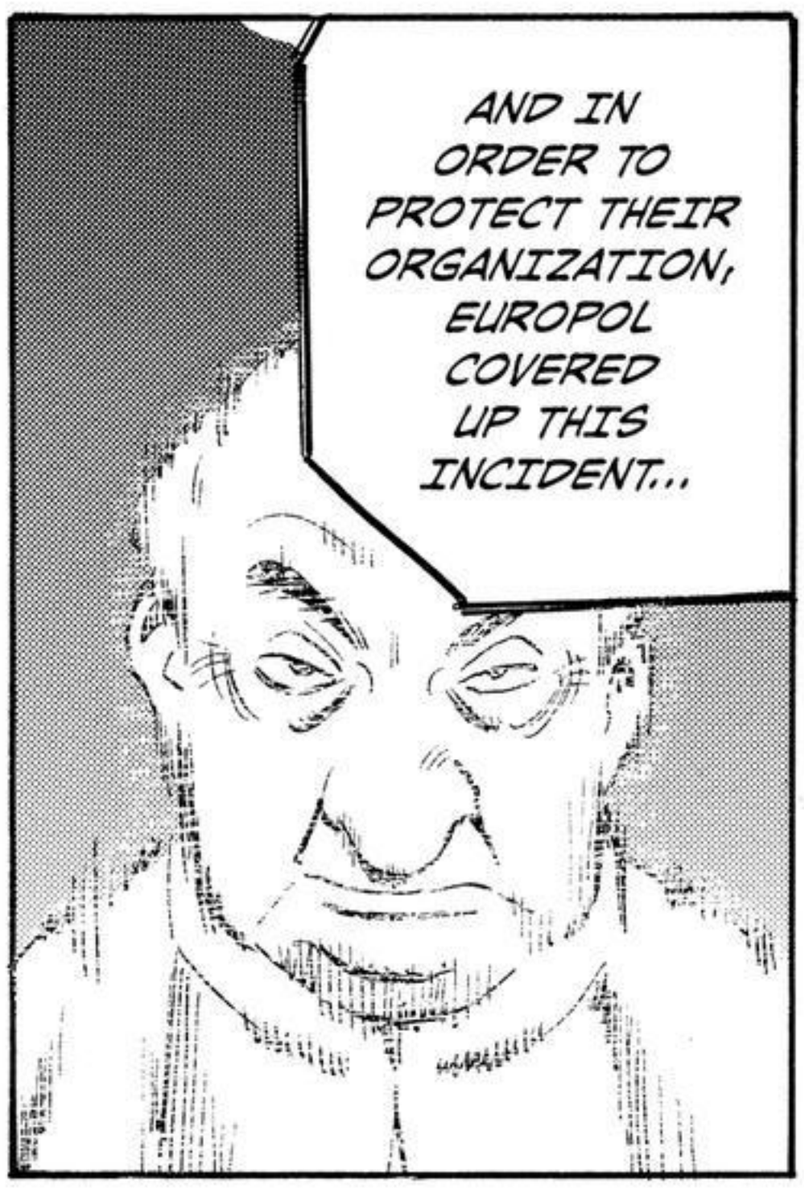
GASP
GASP
RATTLE RATTLE
HUF
HUF

CRAACK

...THAT THIS ROBOT MIGHT HAVE MURDERED YOUR BROTHER...
IT IS ALMOST TOO MUCH TO IMAGINE, ADOLF...

HUF
HUF

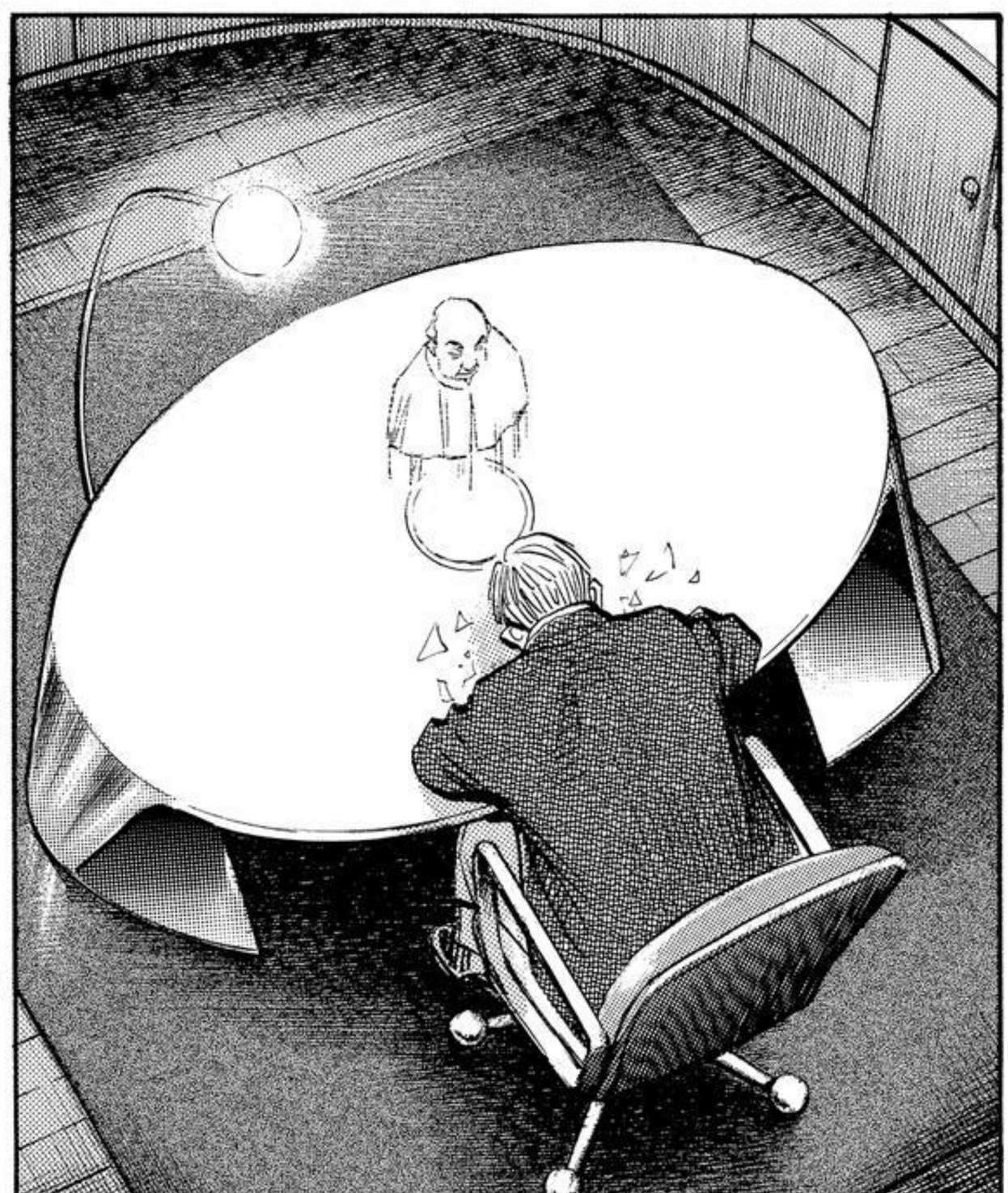
"A ROBOT MAY NOT HARM OR KILL A HUMAN BEING..."
ACCORDING TO ARTICLE THIRTEEN OF THE ROBOT LAWS...
HUF
HUF

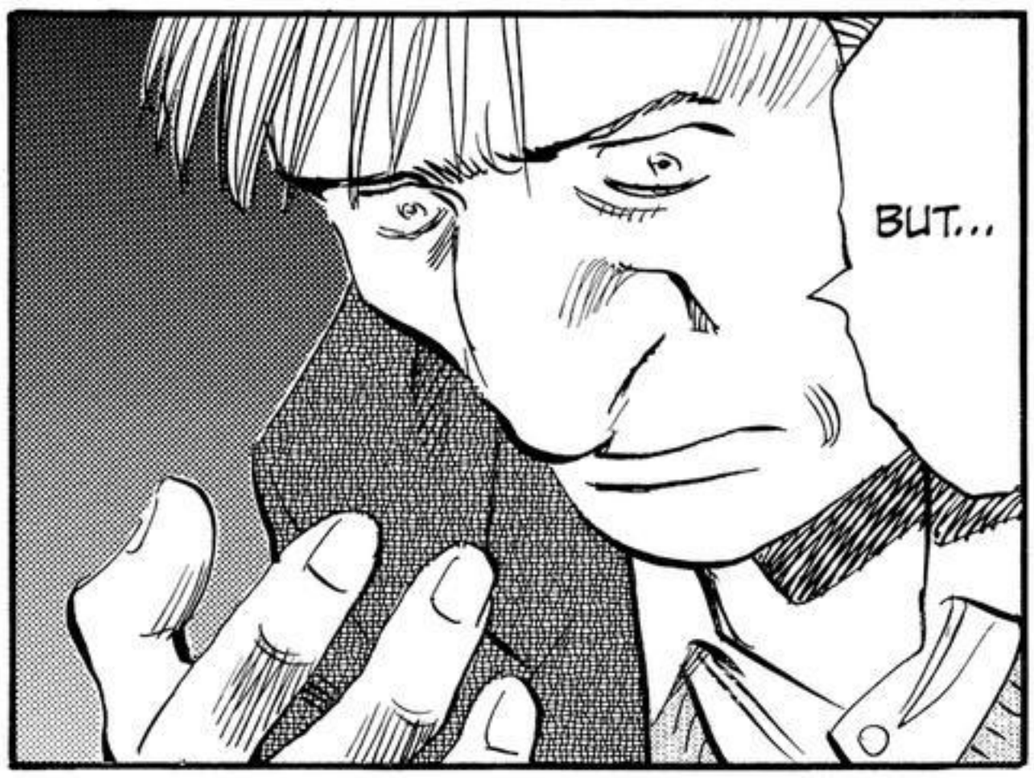

AND IN ORDER TO PROTECT THEIR ORGANIZATION, EUROPOL COVERED UP THIS INCIDENT...

VWIP—

ADOLF, THIS PRESENTS US WITH THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THE PUBLIC AWARE OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF OUR CAUSE!

MY BROTHER... WAS SCUM...
SIR...

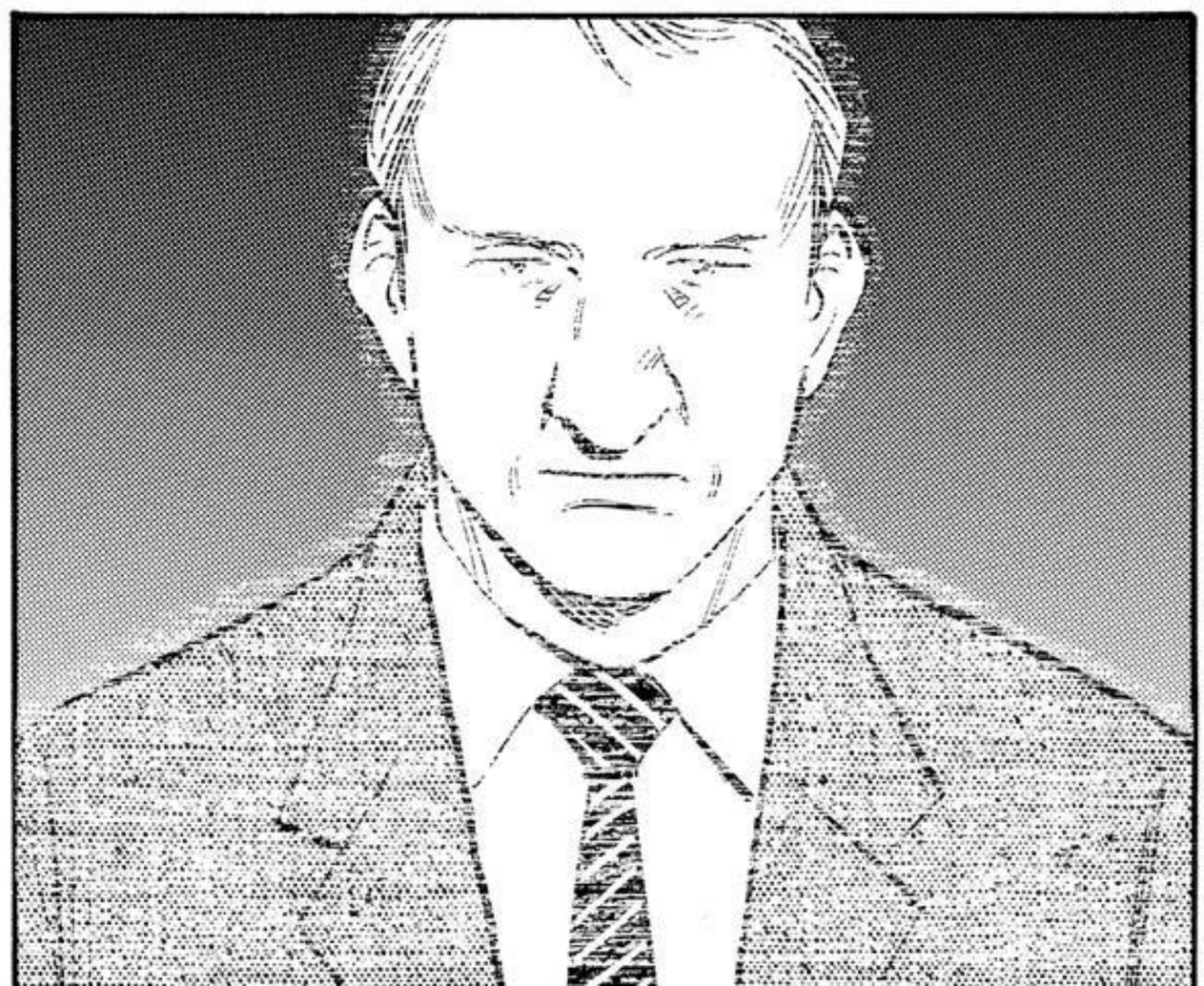


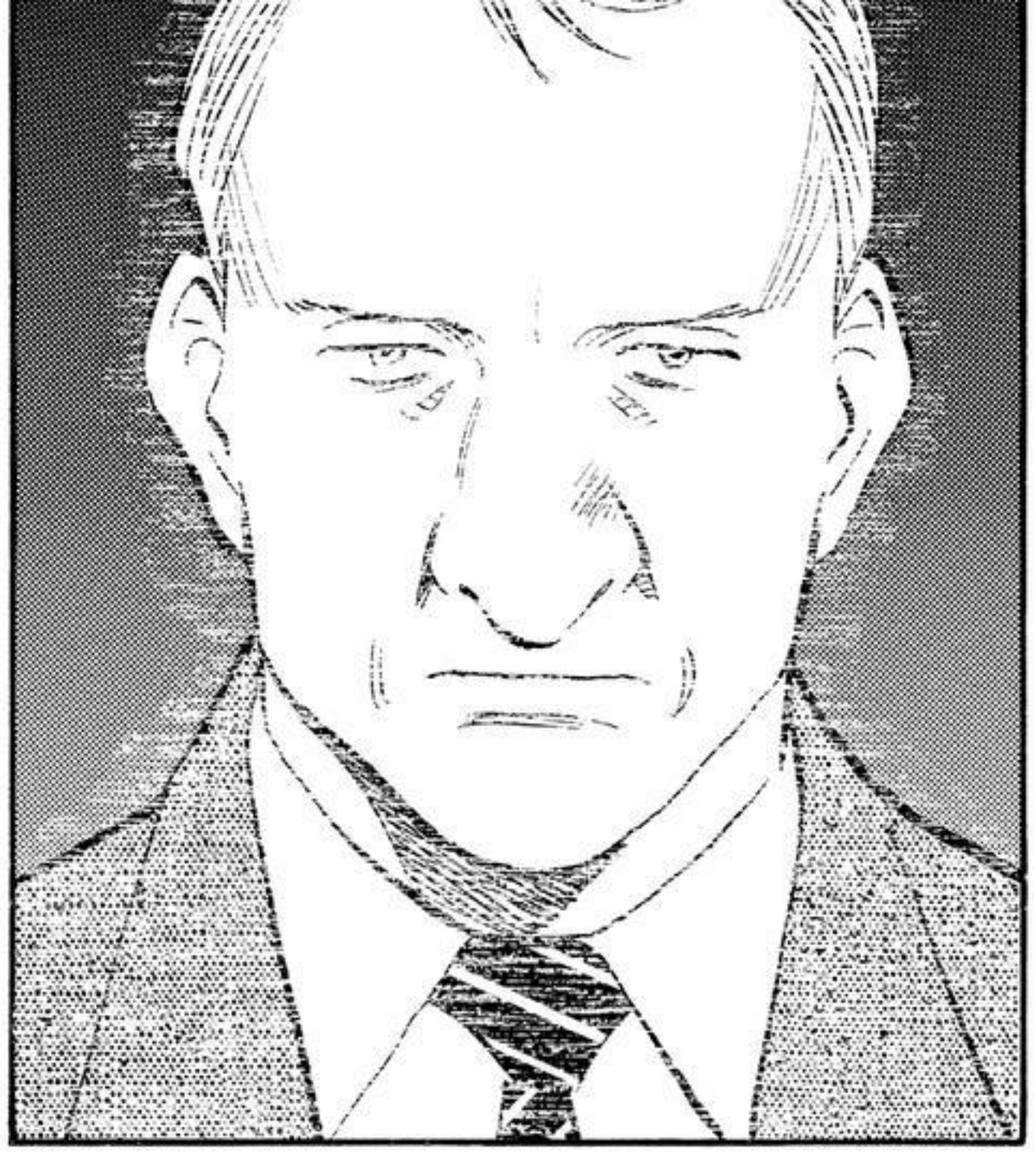

BUT...

BUT...

...HE DIDN'T DESERVE TO BE PULVERIZED BY A *ROBOT*.

VWIR—
YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT, ADOLF...

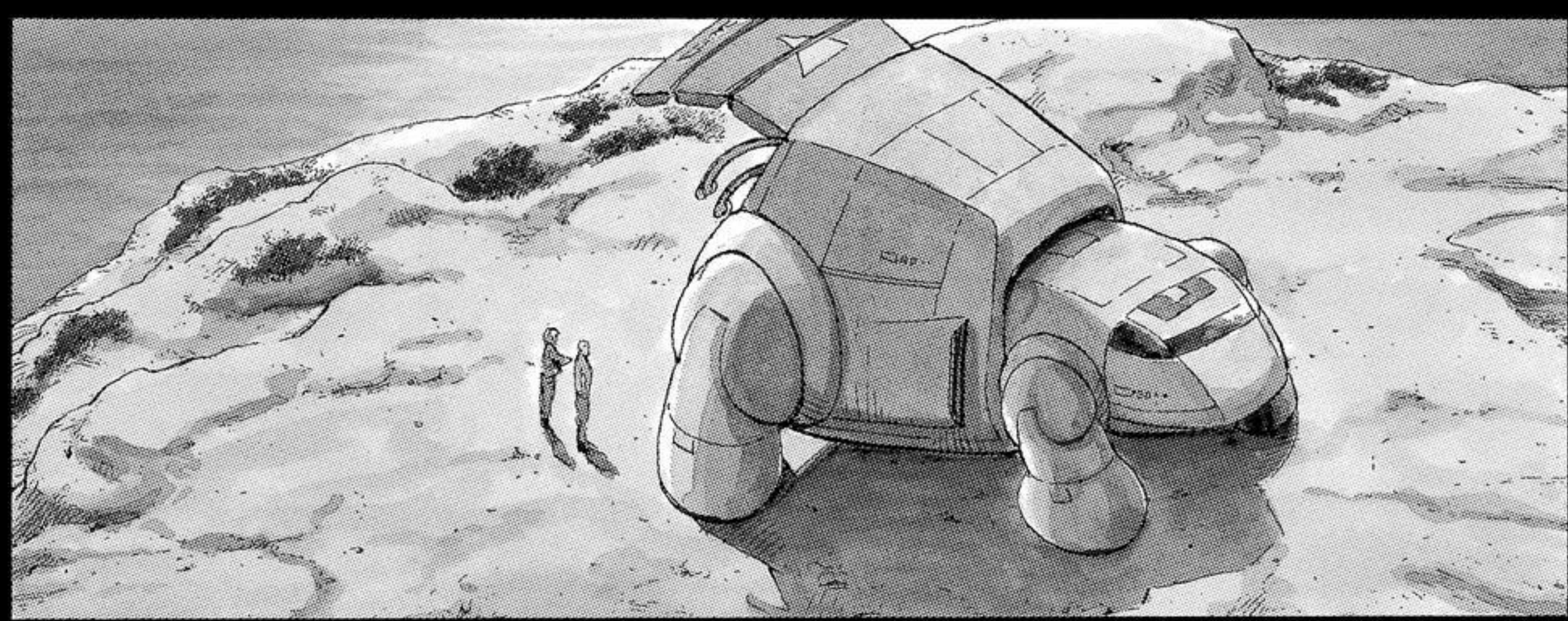


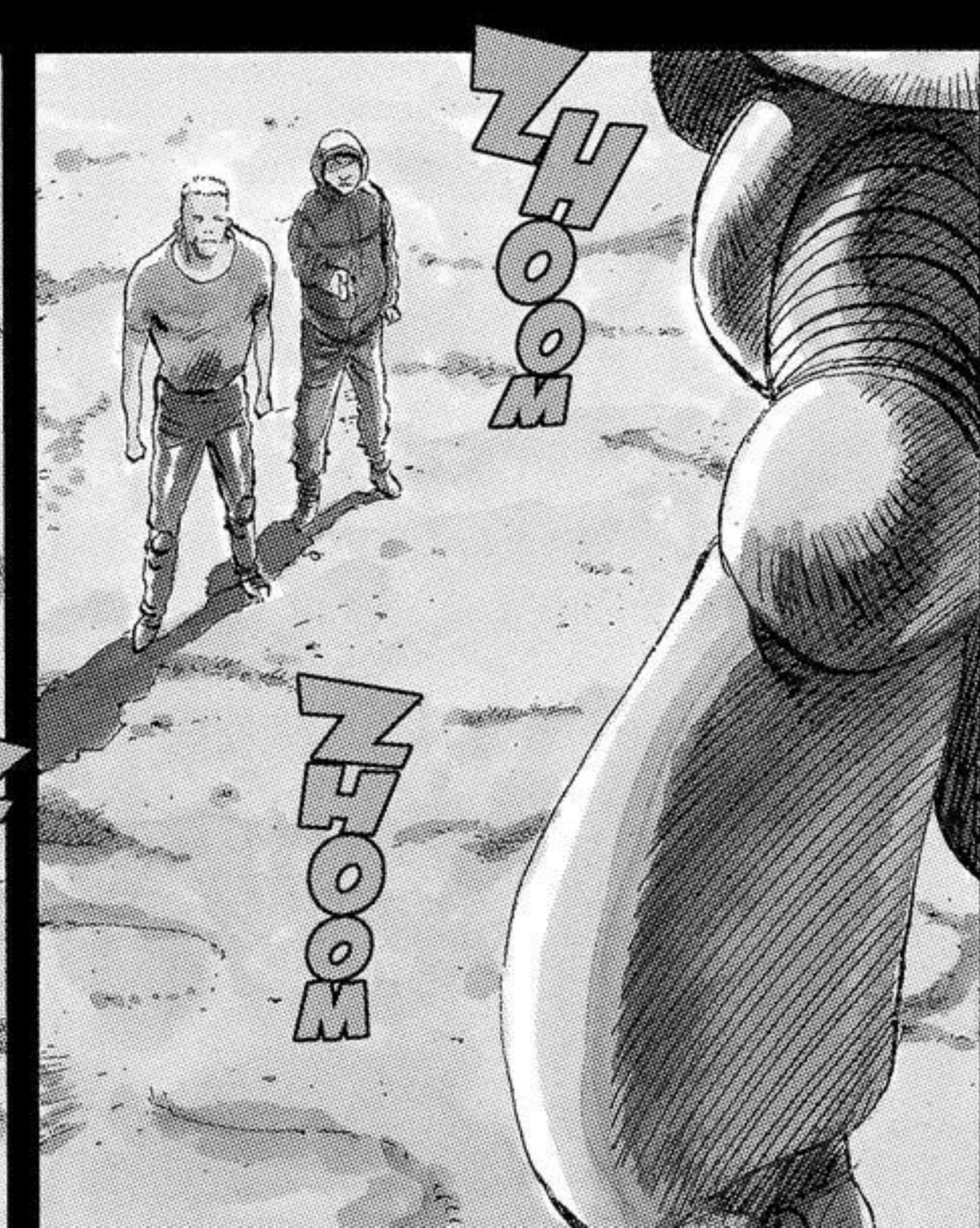


YOU MUST HELP ME. GIVE ME STRENGTH...

GIVE ME THE STRENGTH TO *DESTROY THIS ROBOT*...

Act 19 EPSILON

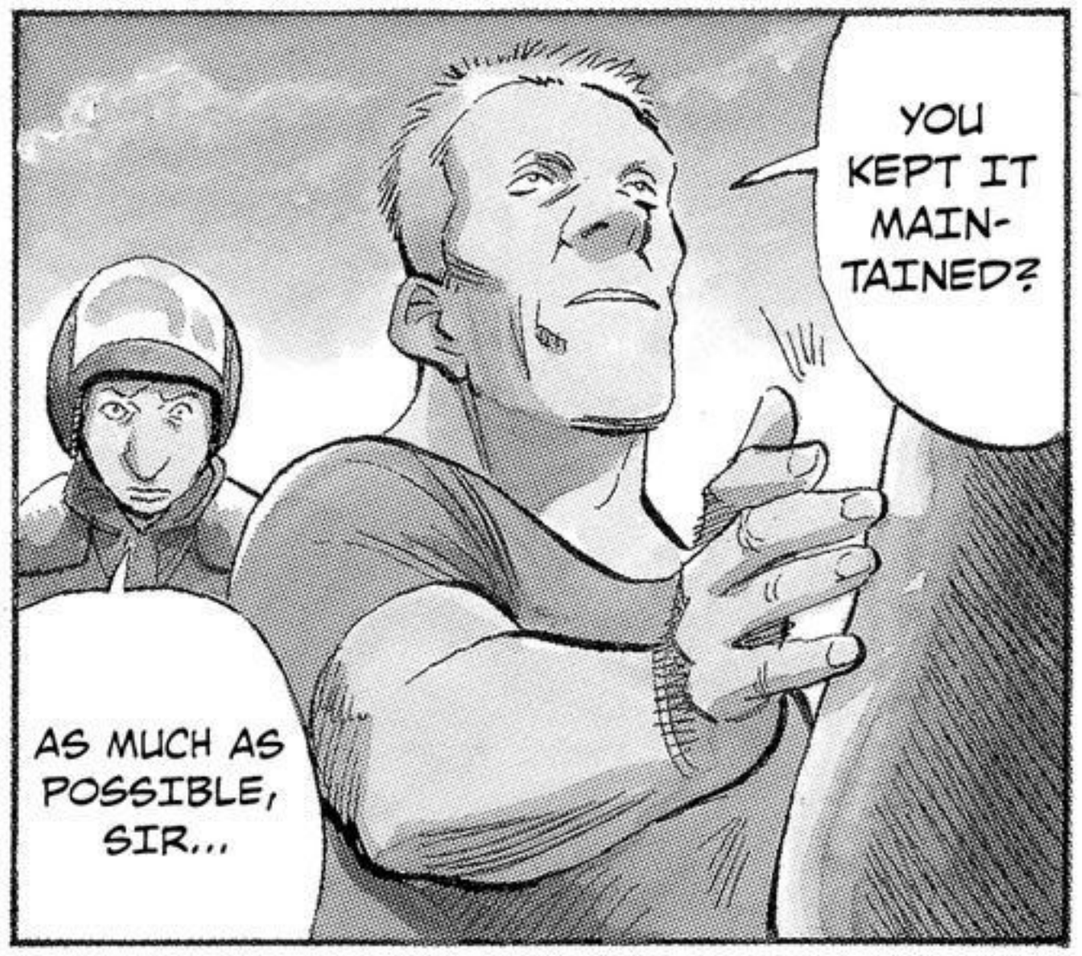


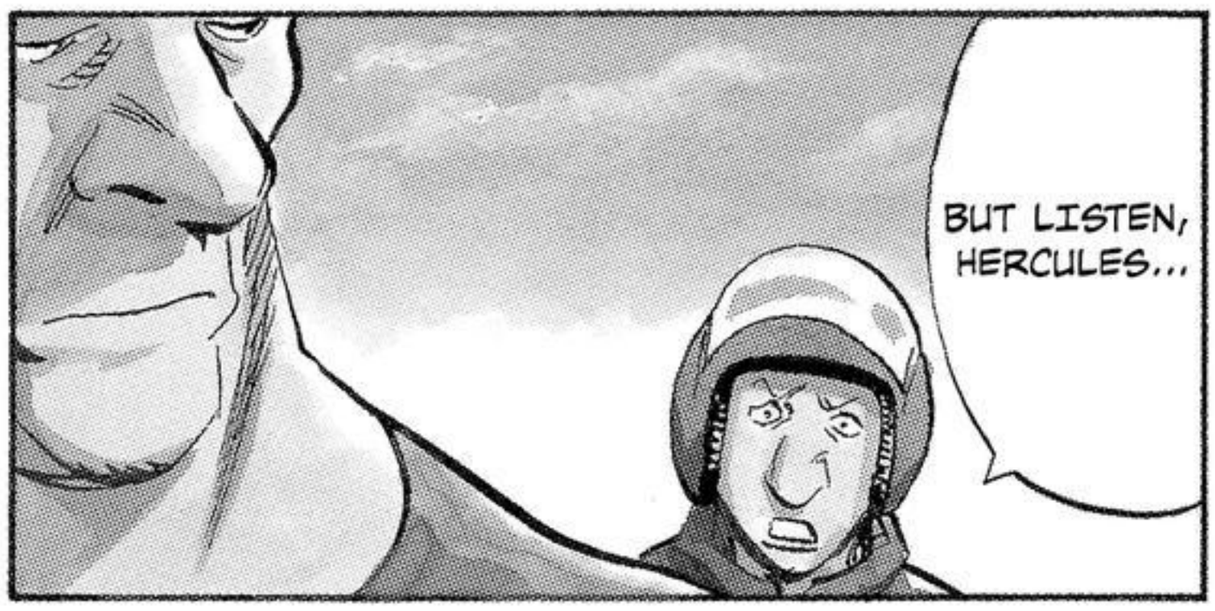


Act 19
EPSILON

I HAVEN'T WORN THIS BATTLE SUIT SINCE THE 39TH CENTRAL ASIAN CONFLICT.

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME...



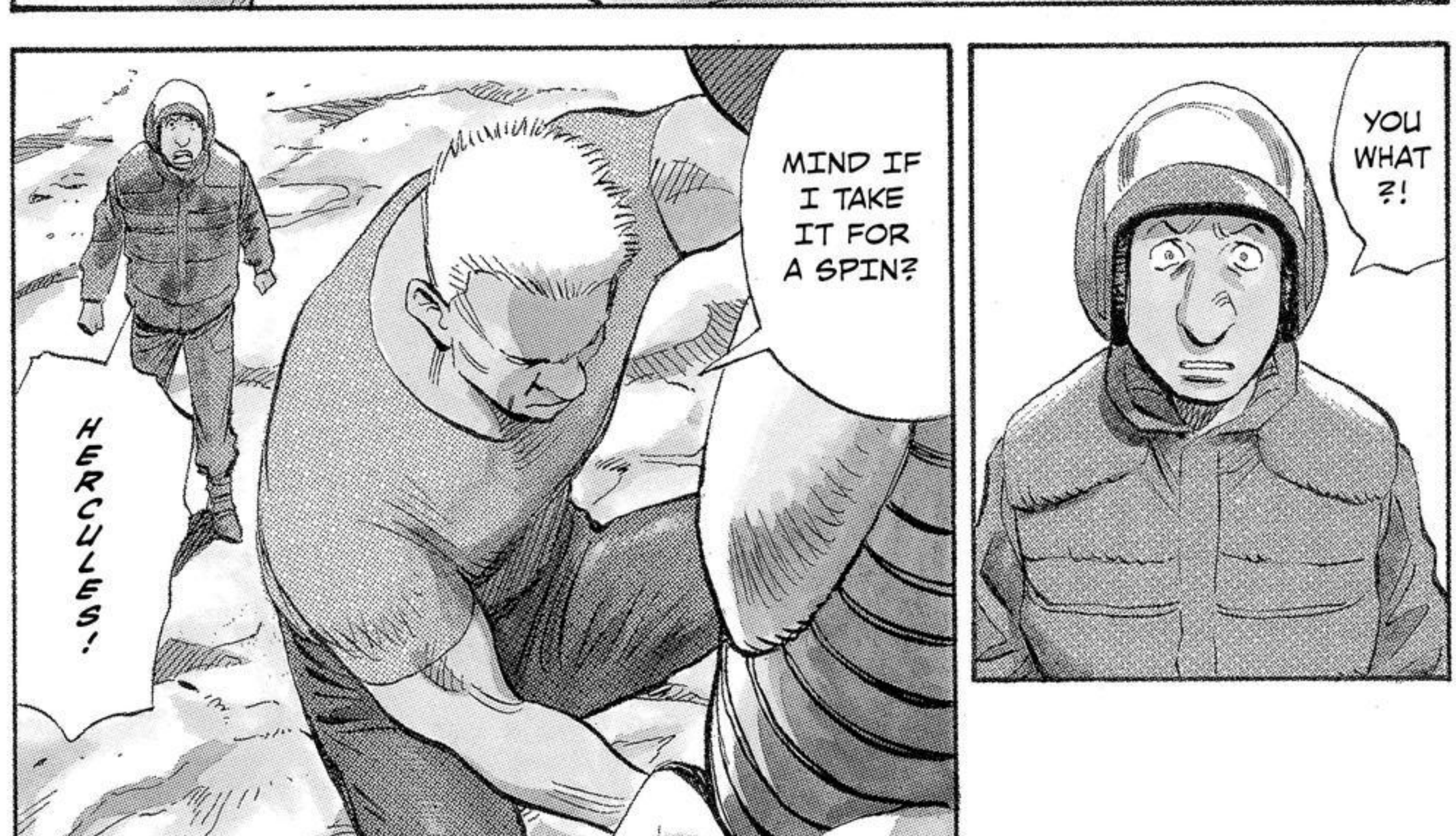


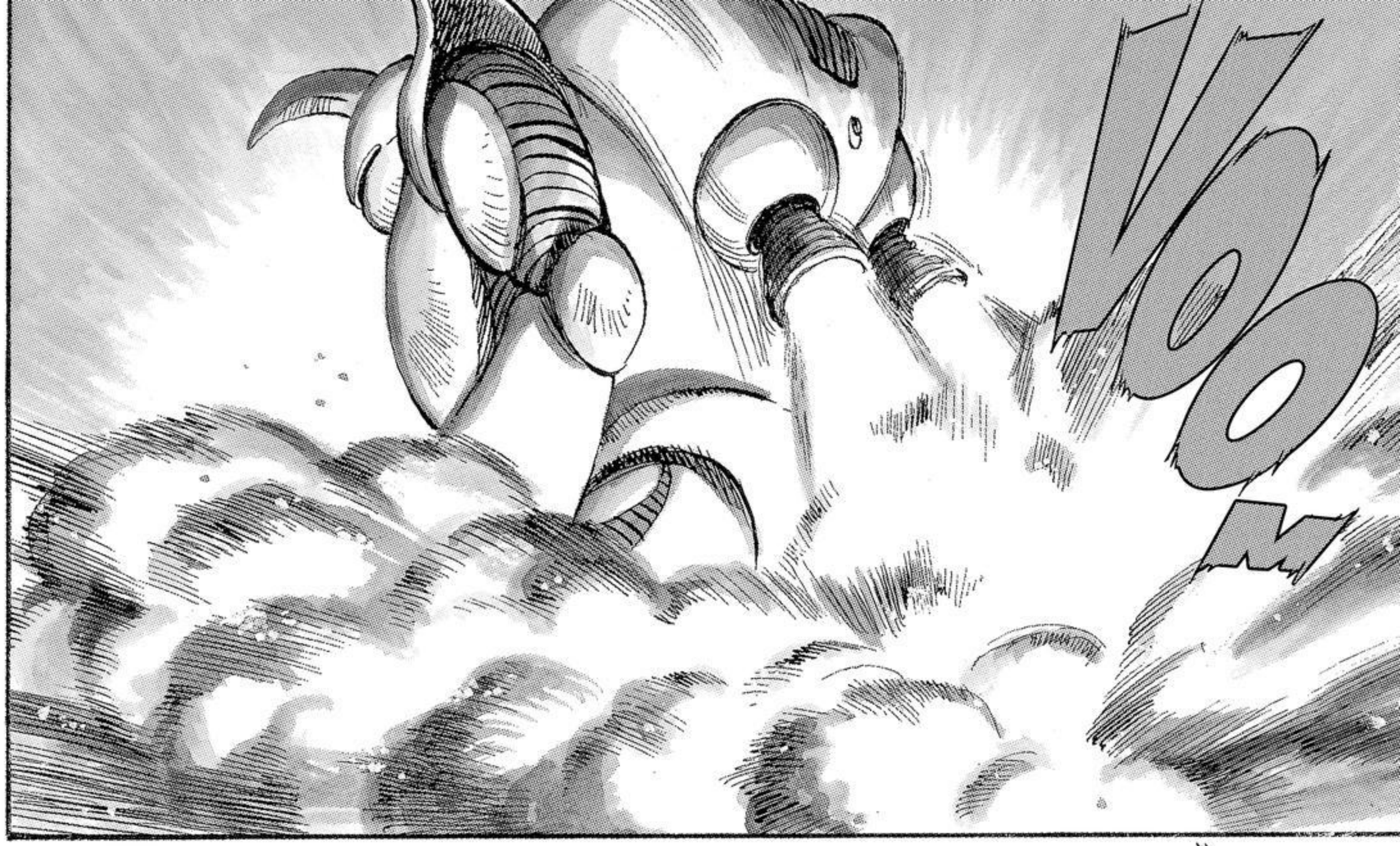
WE'LL NEVER GET TO SEE THE *INVINCIBLE WARRIOR* HERCULES BACK IN THE RING AGAIN...
EVEN IF YOU'RE THE CHAMPION...

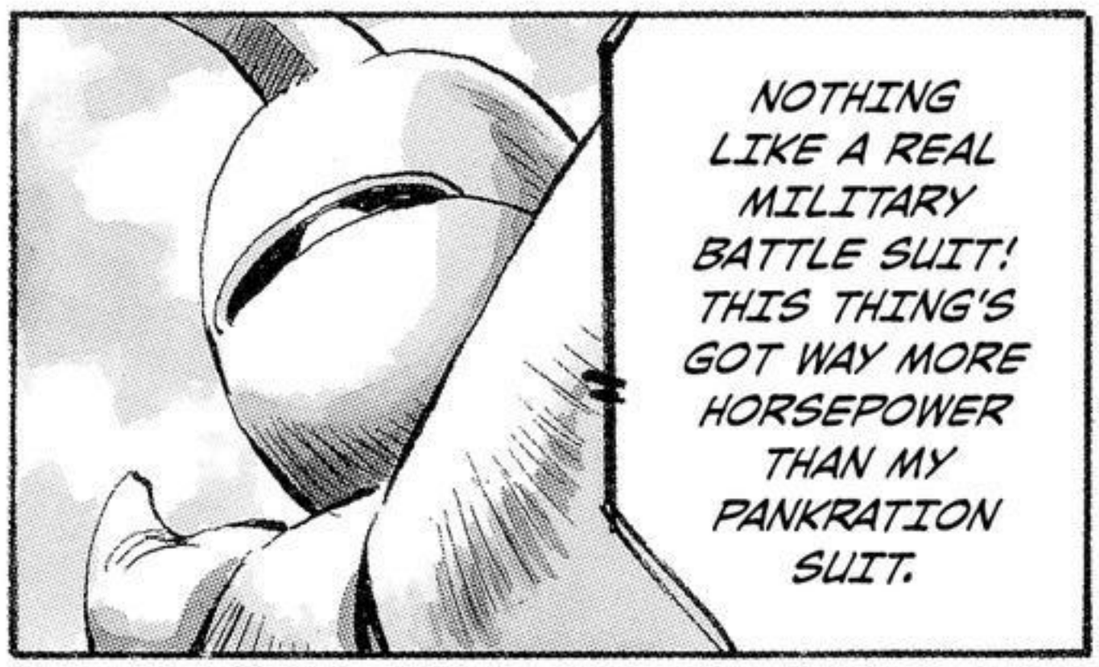
THIS IS A MAJOR VIOLATION OF THE *LAW*...
IF ANYONE FINDS OUT, THEY'LL TAKE AWAY YOUR LICENSE!!

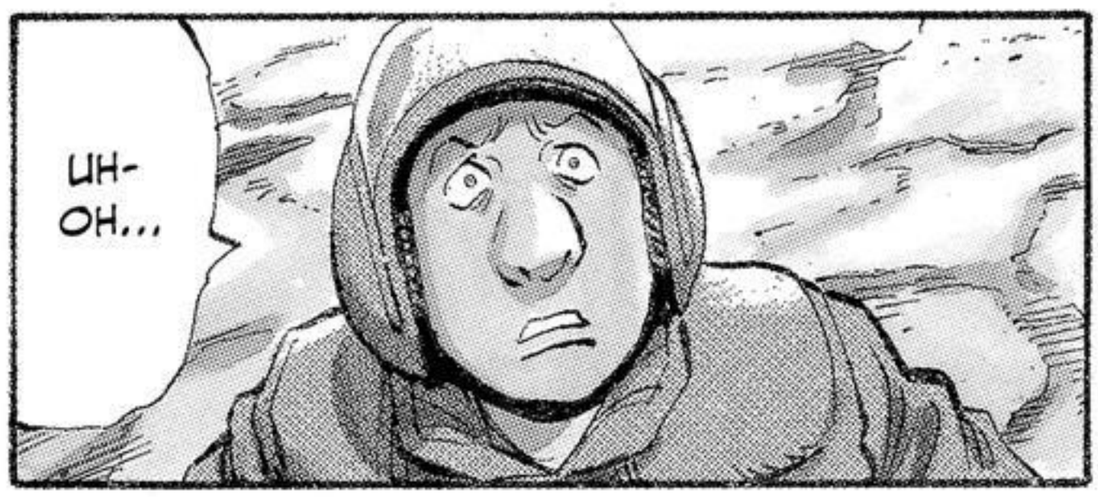
NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT...

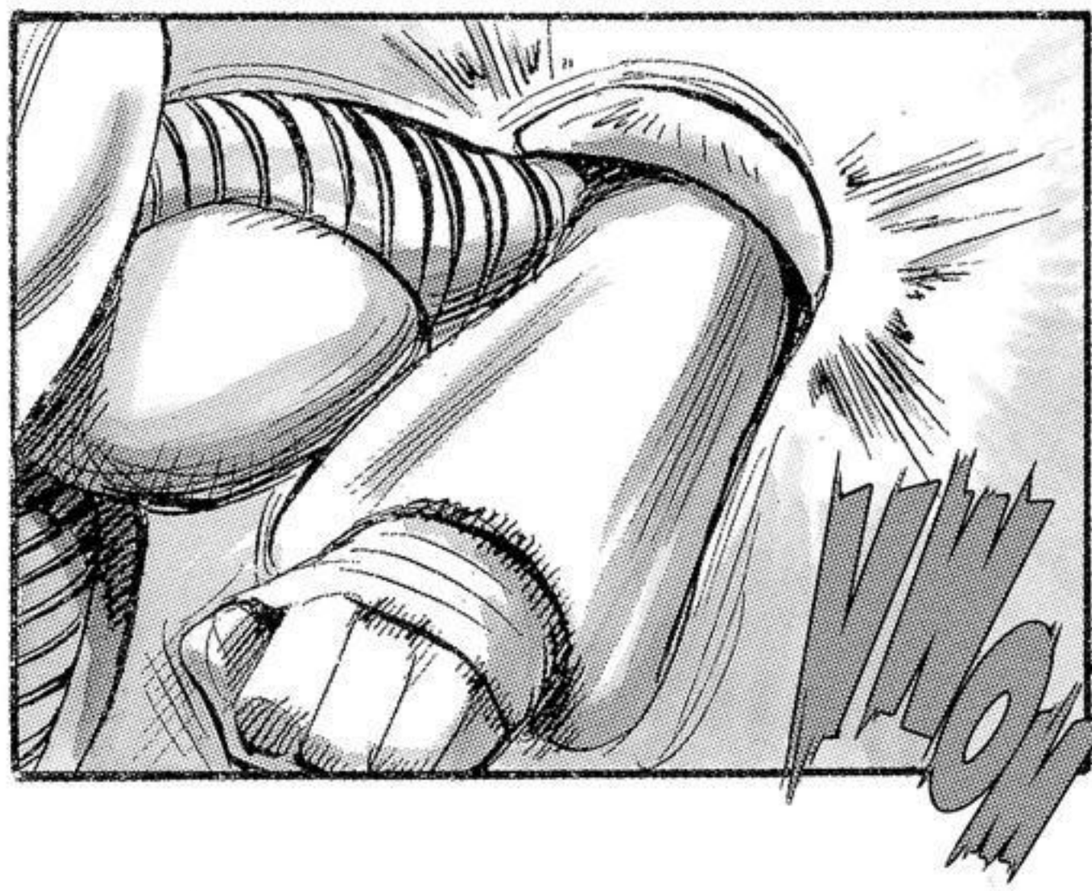
I'M GONNA *RETIRE*.


MIND IF I TAKE IT FOR A SPIN?
HERCULES!
YOU WHAT?!

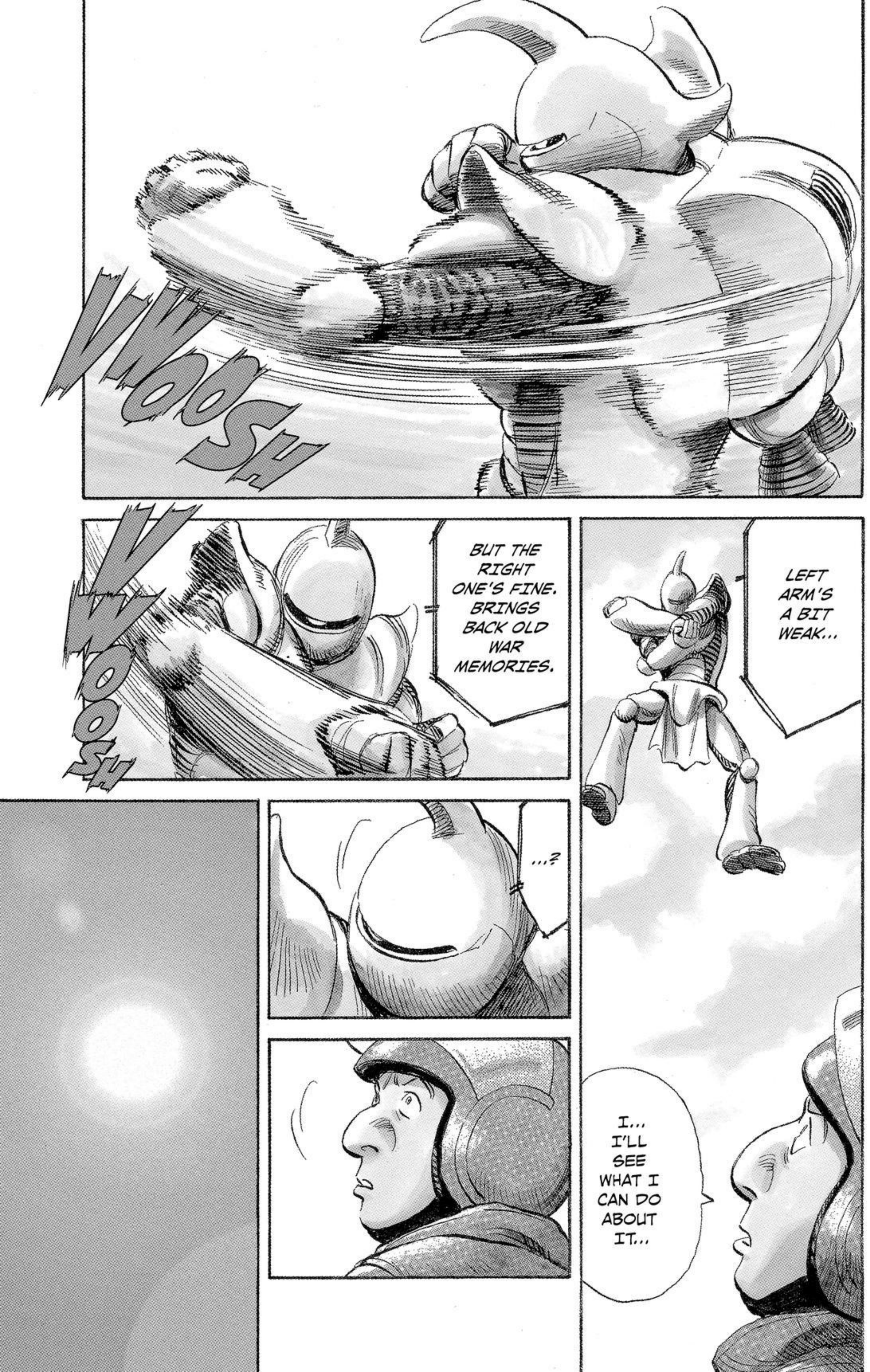

WOW

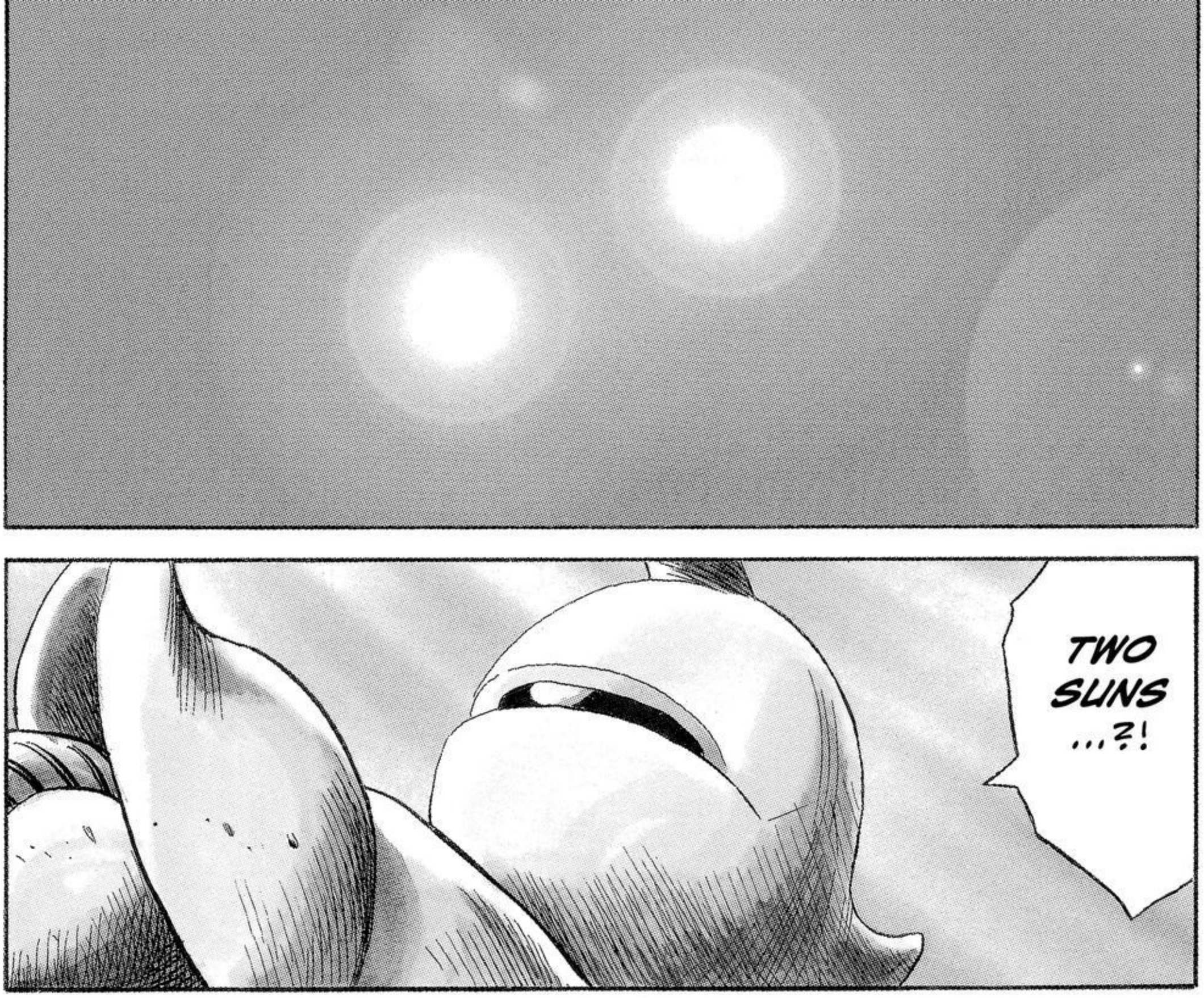

NOTHING LIKE A REAL MILITARY BATTLE SUIT! THIS THING'S GOT WAY MORE HORSEPOWER THAN MY PANKRATION SUIT.


UH-OH...


WOW

WHOOSH


HOOSH
WOOSH
BUT THE RIGHT ONE'S FINE. BRINGS BACK OLD WAR MEMORIES.
LEFT ARM'S A BIT WEAK...
...?
I... I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO ABOUT IT...


TWO SUNS ...?!
FLASH

HERCULES!!
CRASH!

LET US DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH OUR HOODS OFF...

KR

SUBURBS OF DÜSSELDORF

KR KR KR

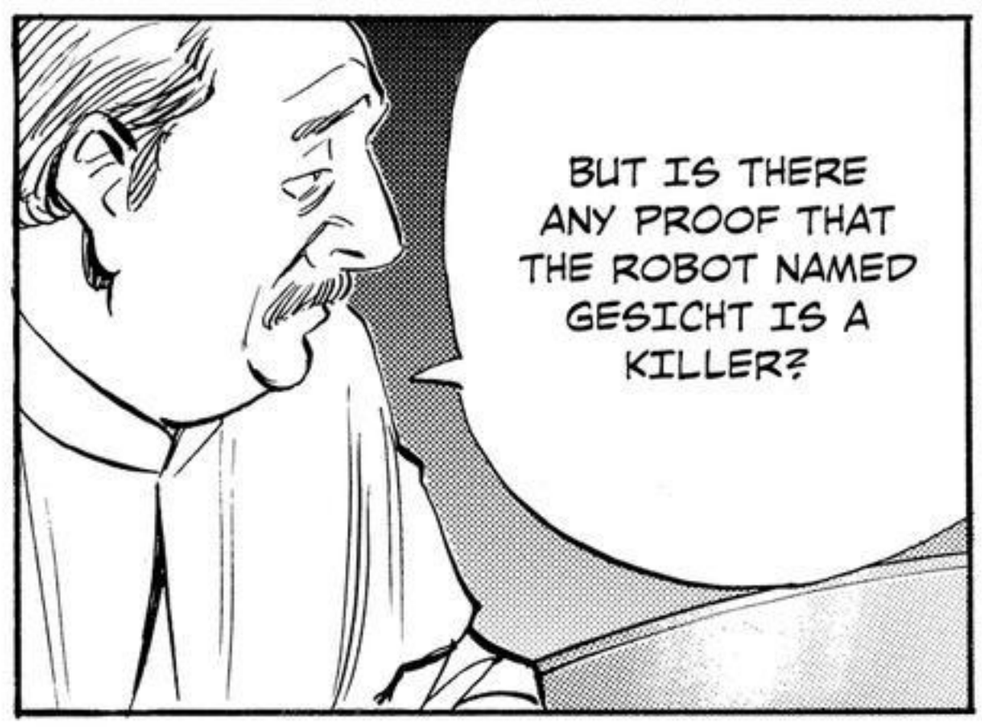
AGREED, GENTLEMEN?

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT AGENDA ITEM, BEST DISCUSSED FACE-TO-FACE...

FINE...

WE HAVE LEGAL EXPERTS, CRITICS, AND PROMINENT OPINION MAKERS OF ALL SORTS HERE TODAY, SO WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO SEE IS A FRANK EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS....
I'M SURE EVERYONE IS FAMILIAR WITH THE DETAILS OF WHAT WE ARE ABOUT TO DISCUSS...

...


BUT IS THERE ANY PROOF THAT THE ROBOT NAMED GESICHT IS A KILLER?

EVERYBODY HERE ALREADY KNOWS ROBOTS KILL PEOPLE.
IS THERE REALLY ANYTHING TO DEBATE?

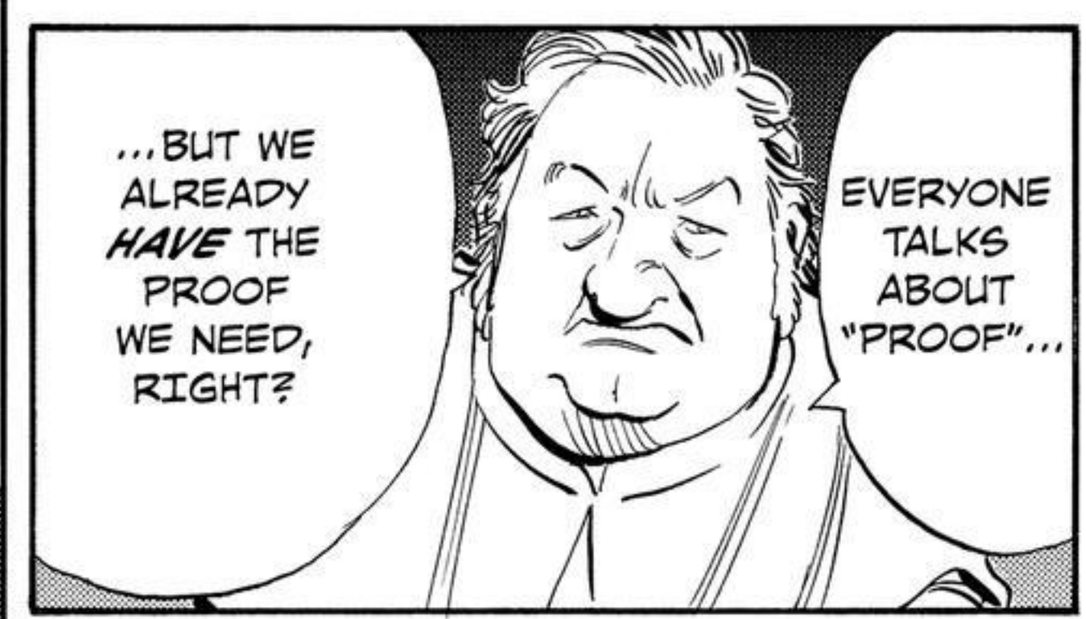
...

RIGHT. THAT'S THE POSITION OUR ORGANIZATION SHOULD TAKE!
REGARDLESS, OUR FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS SHOULD BE TO MAKE A SCAPEGOAT OUT OF GESICHT, RIGHT?

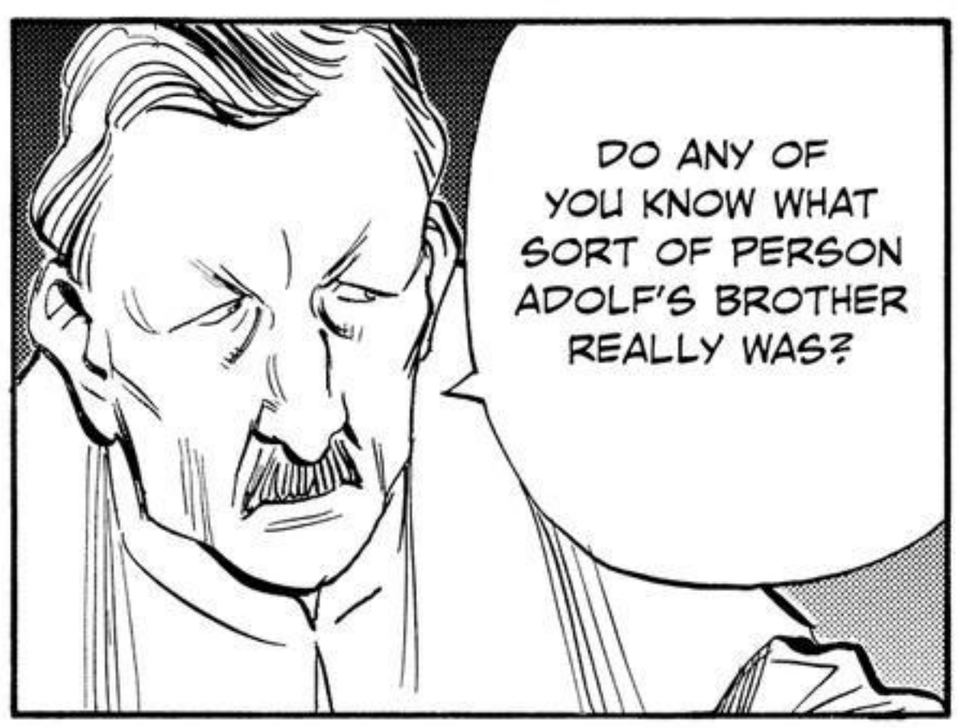
WELL, THEY SAY HE'S MADE OF THE ZERONIUM ALLOY...

BUT ACCORDING TO OUR INVESTIGATION, FIVE ADVANCED ROBOTS IN EUROPE ARE CAPABLE OF FIRING ZERONIUM SHELLS...

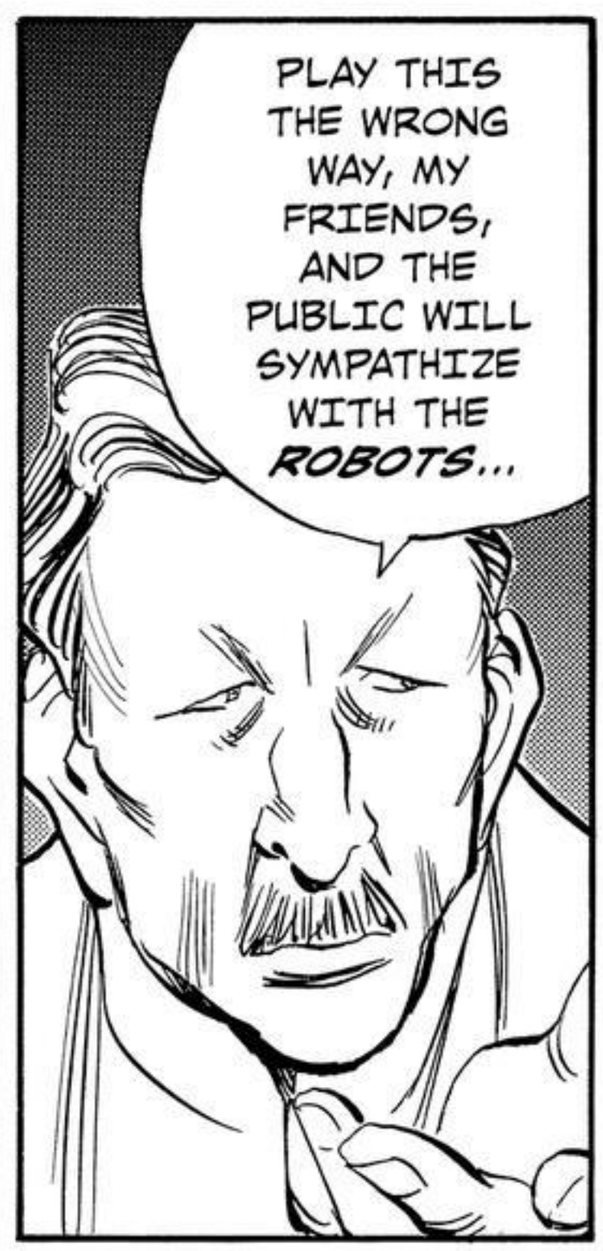
THAT'S RIGHT. ADOLF'S BROTHER WAS BLOWN AWAY BY A ZERONIUM SHELL.
...


...BUT WE ALREADY *HAVE* THE PROOF WE NEED, RIGHT?
EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT "PROOF"...

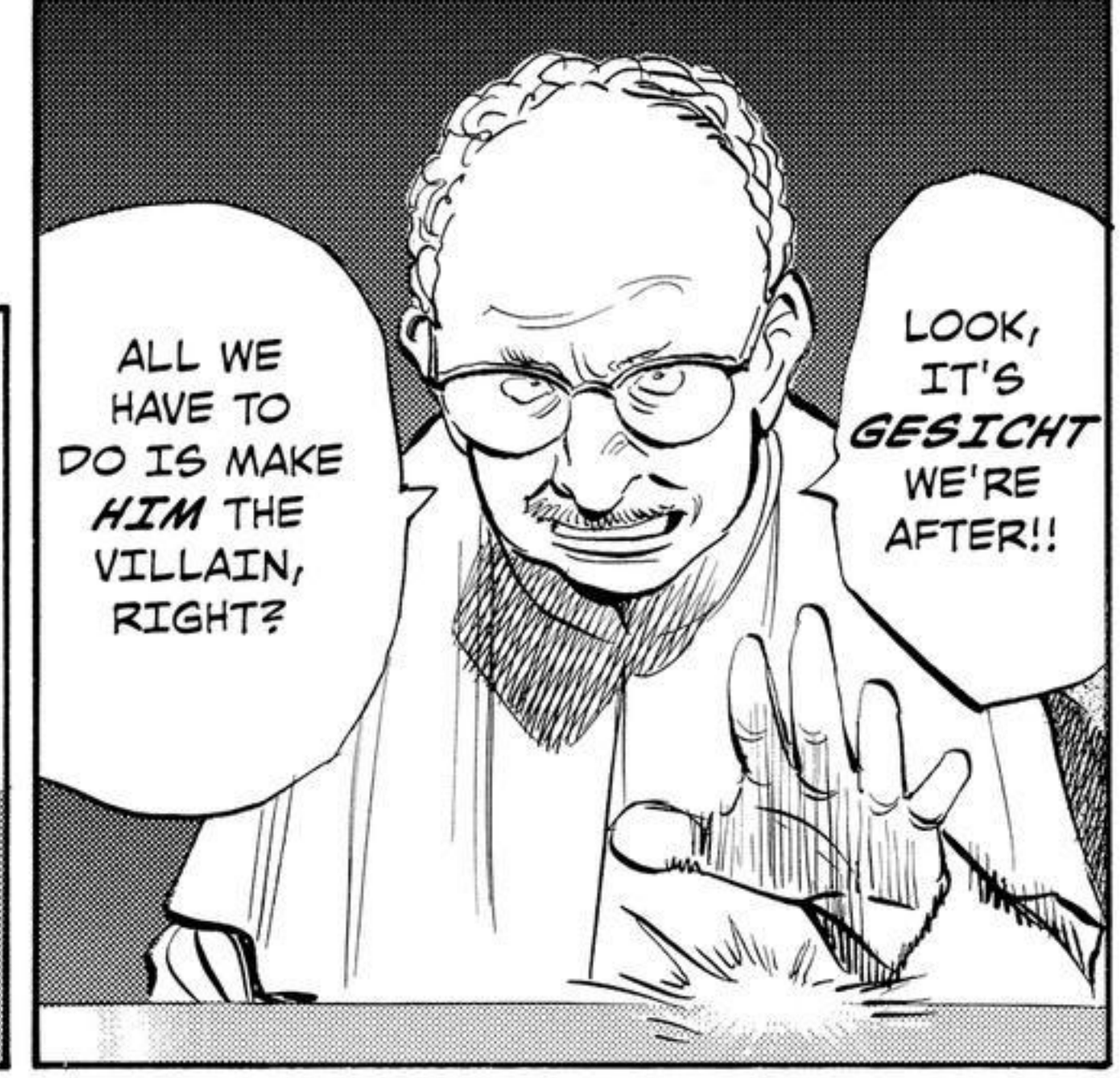
YOU MEAN THE *VICTIM*, RIGHT?!


DO ANY OF YOU KNOW WHAT SORT OF PERSON ADOLF'S BROTHER REALLY WAS?

I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT...
WE CAN PLAY UP IN THE PRESS THAT HIS BROTHER WAS THE TRAGIC VICTIM OF AN EVIL, MAN-KILLING ROBOT.


PLAY THIS THE WRONG WAY, MY FRIENDS, AND THE PUBLIC WILL SYMPATHIZE WITH THE *ROBOTS*...

I AGREE. THEN IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF HOW EUROPOL REACTS.


ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS MAKE *HIM* THE VILLAIN, RIGHT?
LOOK, IT'S *GESICHT* WE'RE AFTER!!

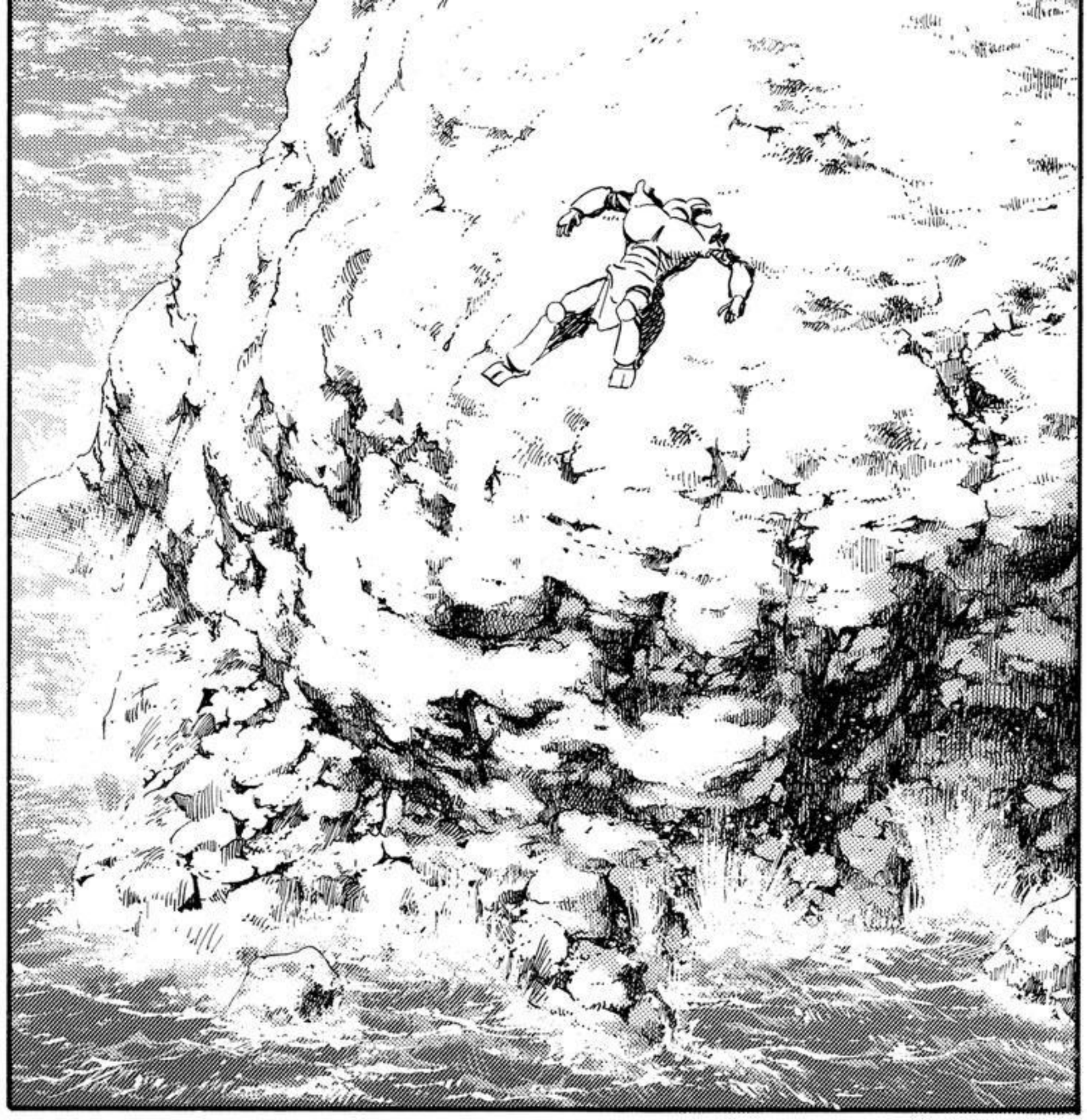
YES...
ALL WE NEED IS A CREDIBLE SCENARIO. MAKE GESICHT THE BAD GUY.

AND IT DOESN'T MATTER IF WE HAVE TO FRAME HIM TO GET RESULTS.

LET'S SET HIM UP!
RIGHT!

...
WE CAN SPIN THE MEDIA FOR EVERYTHING IT'S WORTH...
WE'LL STOKE FEARS ABOUT INHUMAN *ROBOT CRUELTY*!!
RIGHT! WE CAN PLAY UP THE *ANTI-SOCIAL* SIDE OF ROBOTS!!

I KNOW A GOOD WRITER.
...
A STORY THAT'LL MAKE US LOOK GOOD, THAT SUPPORTS OUR IDEOLOGY!!



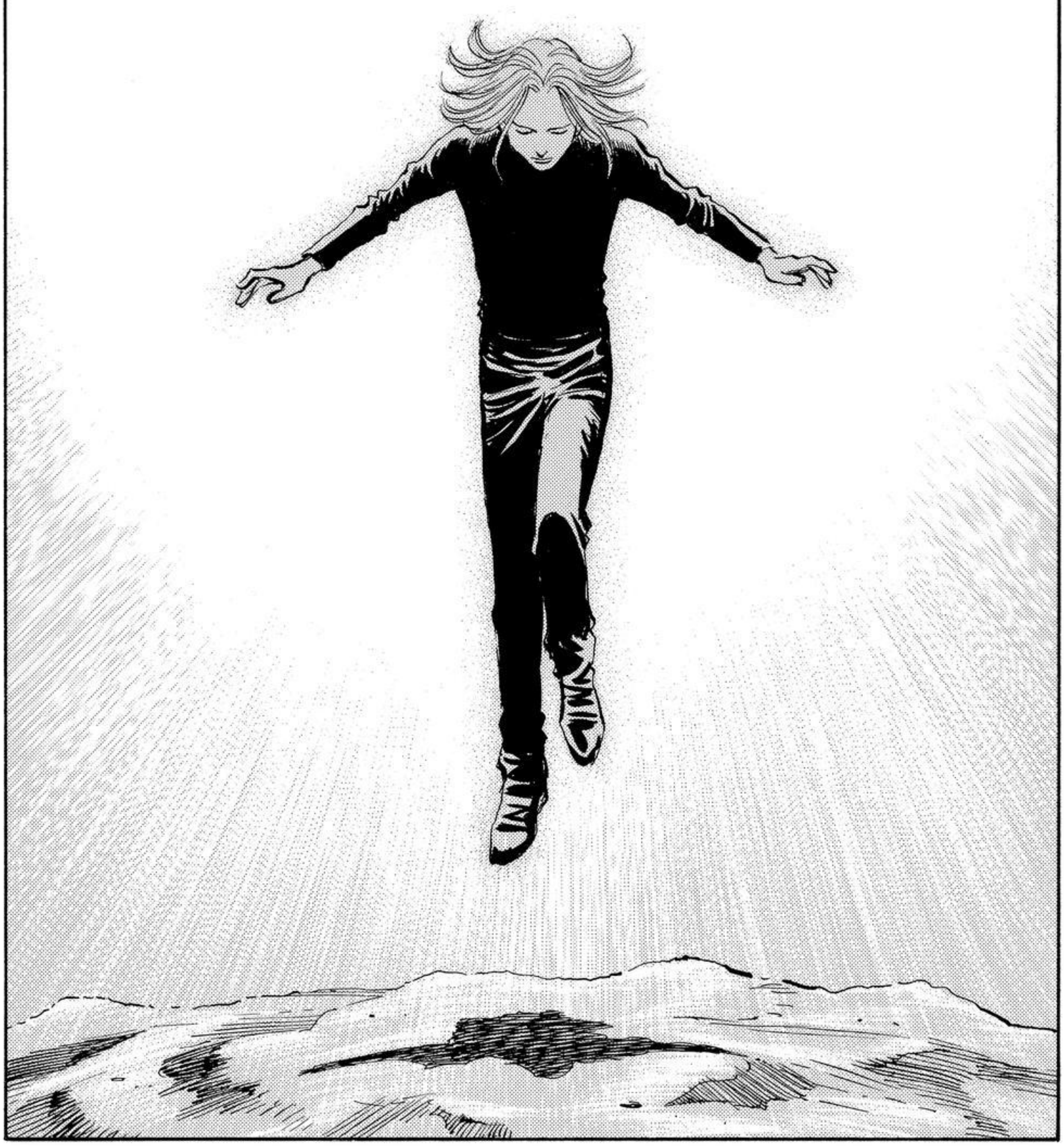
KERSHOOM

HERCULES!!

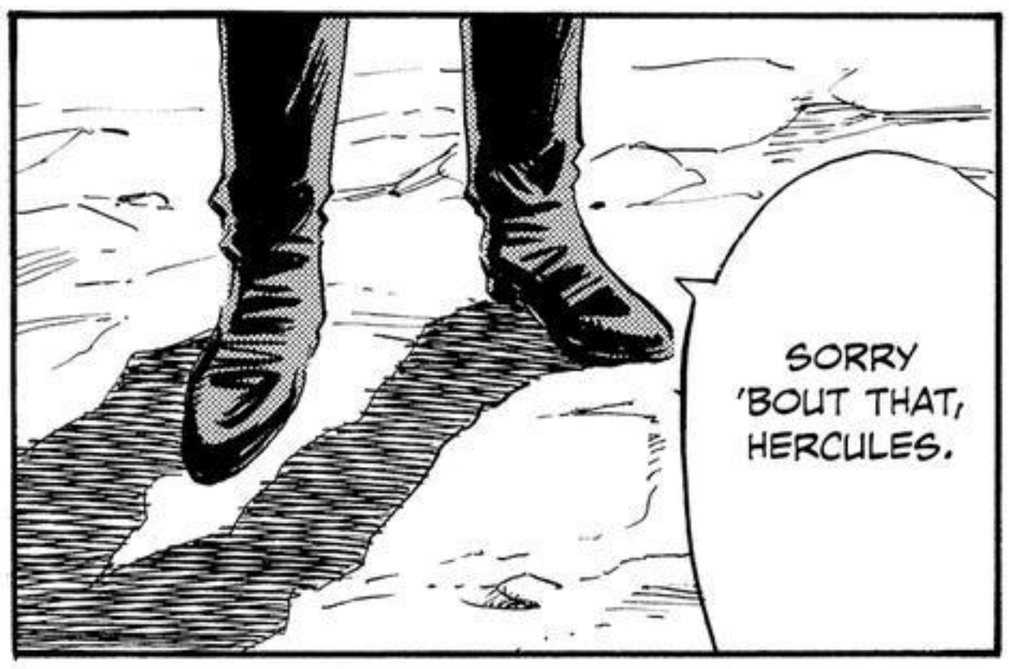
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... SUCH ENERGY...
COUGH...

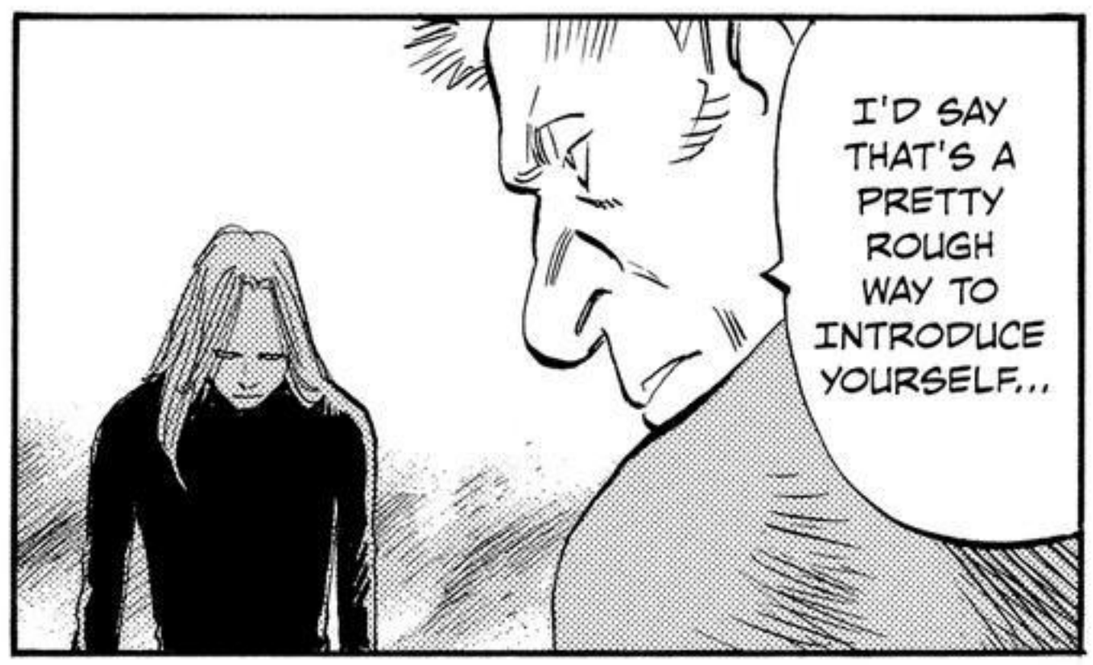
YOU OKAY, HERCULES ?!
UNGHH ...

WHAT THE--?!!
PHOTON ENERGY ...!!



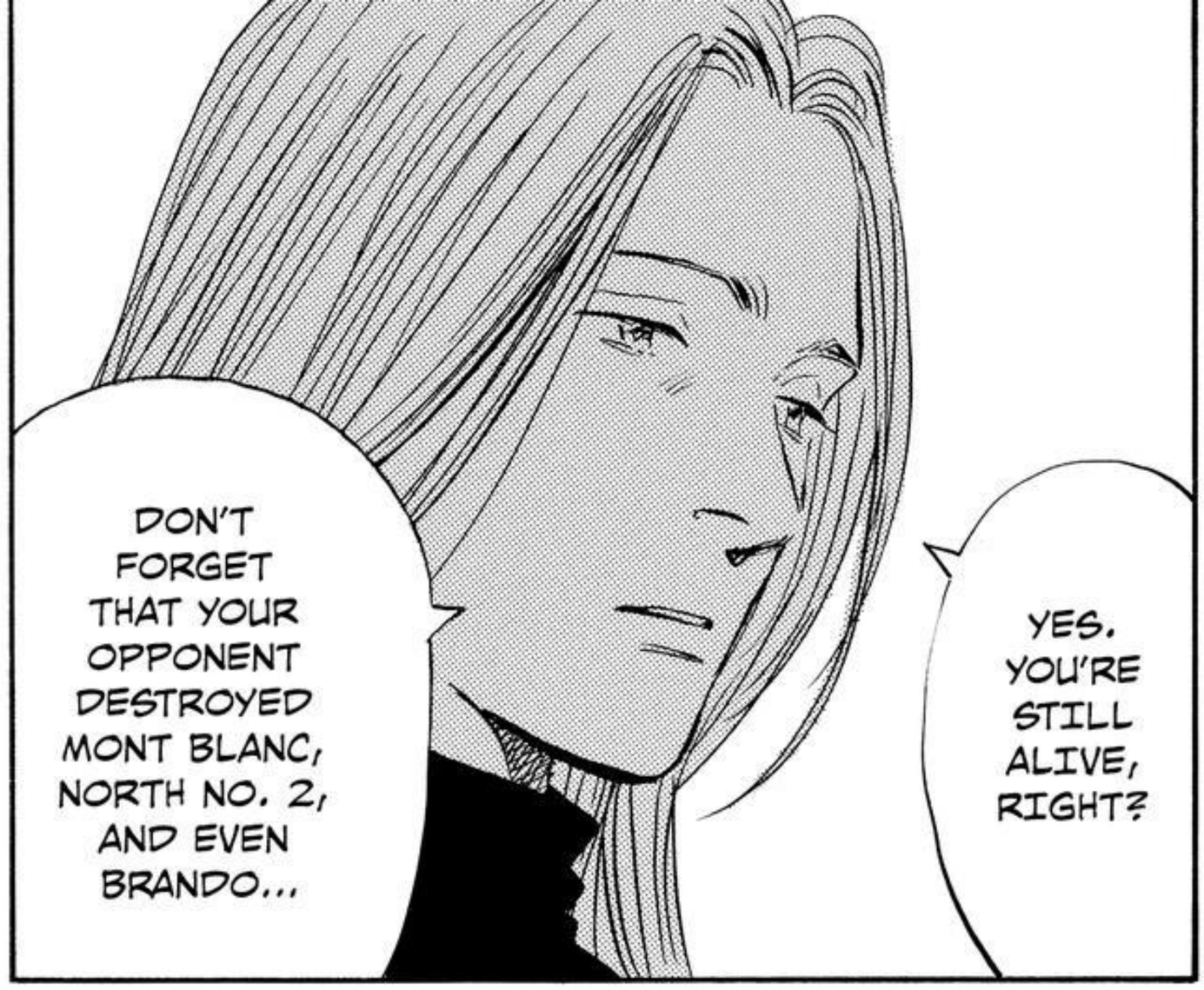
EPSILON
?!!





I *HAD* TO STOP YOU...

I HAD NO CHOICE...

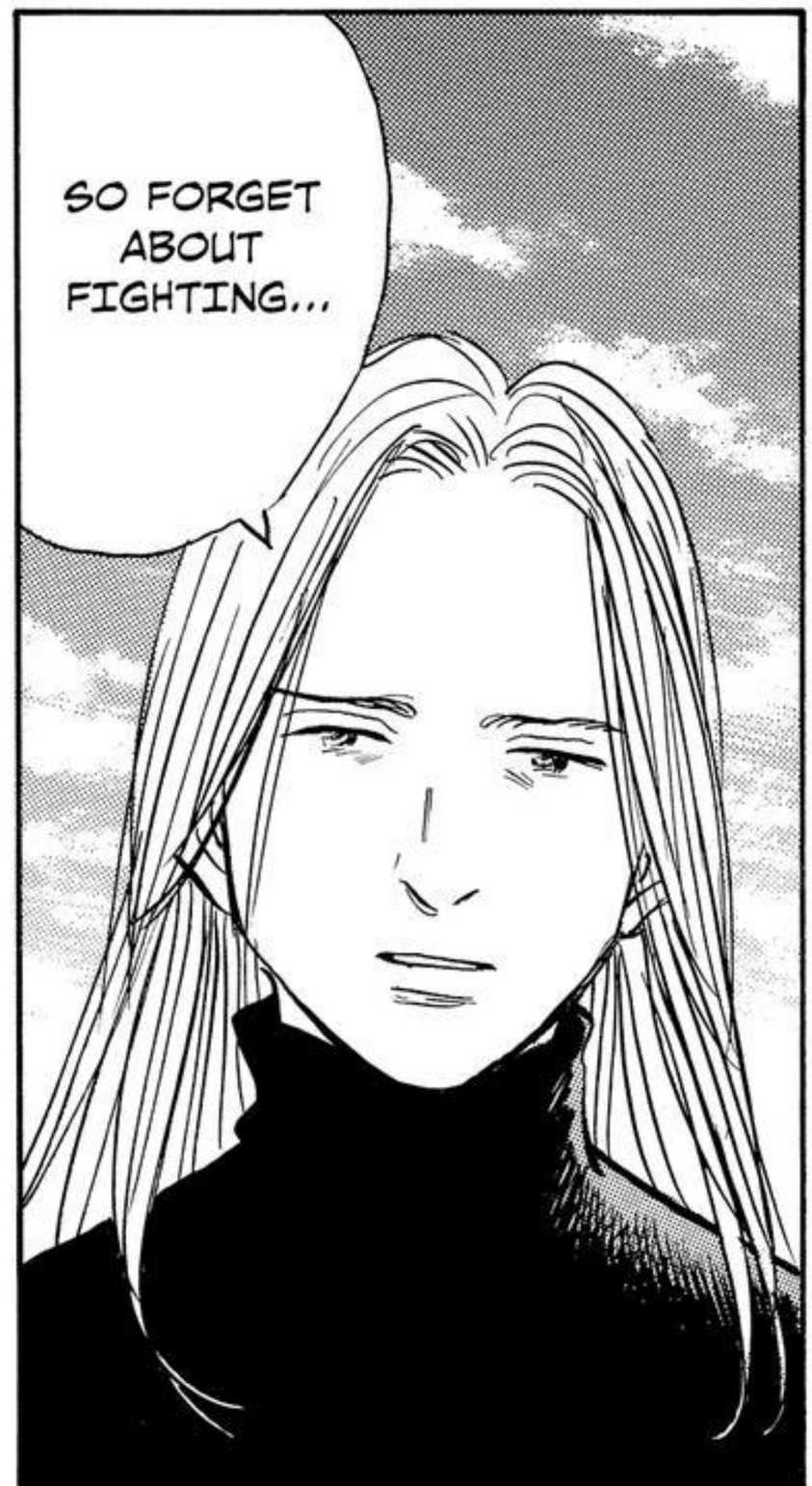

DON'T FORGET THAT YOUR OPPONENT DESTROYED MONT BLANC, NORTH NO. 2, AND EVEN BRANDO...
YES. YOU'RE STILL ALIVE, RIGHT?

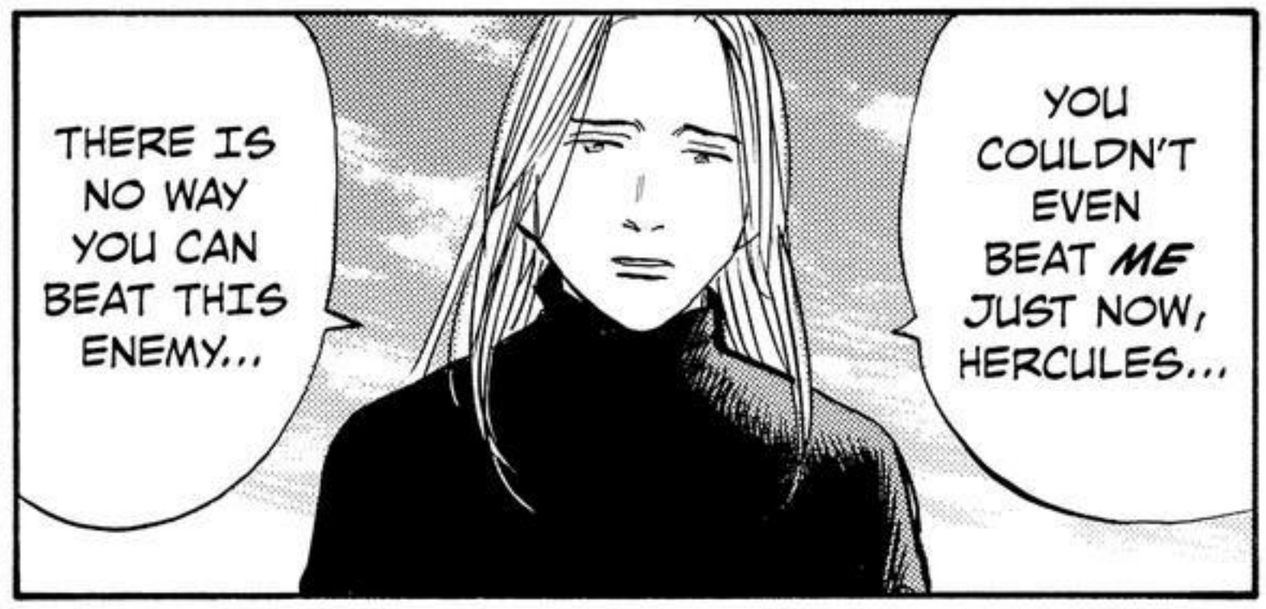
STOP ME...?

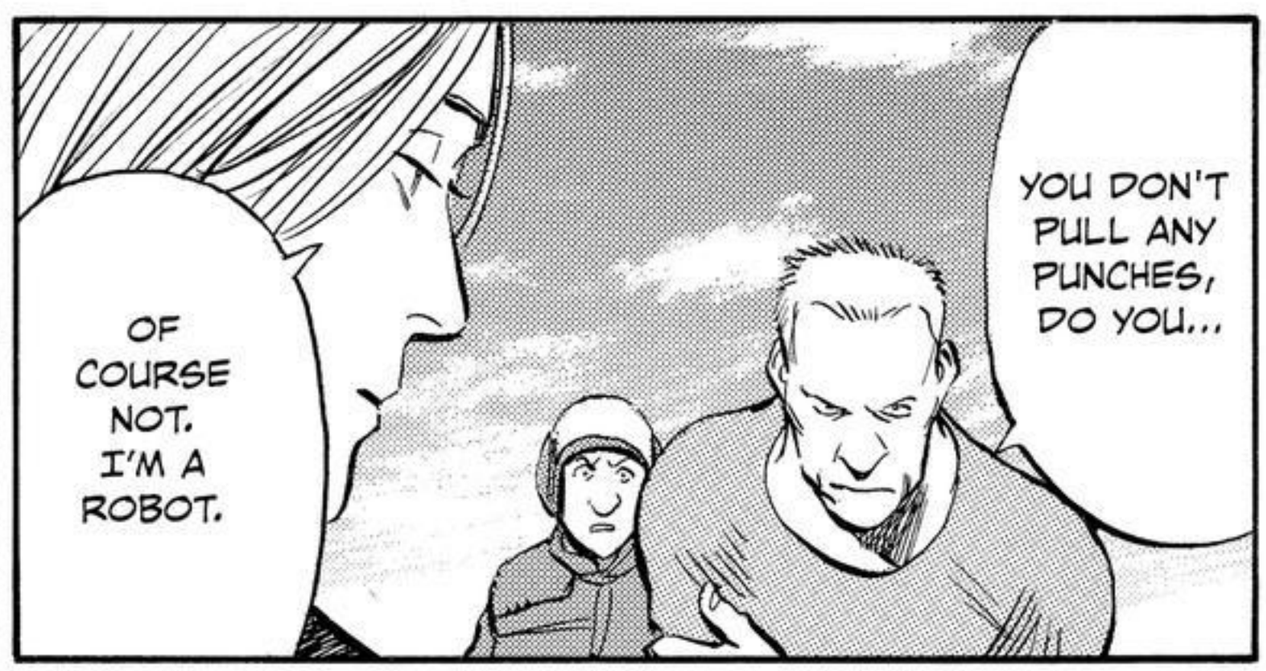
SO WHY STOP ME?

I'M AWARE OF THAT.

YOU'RE IN DANGER TOO, YOU KNOW...


SO FORGET ABOUT FIGHTING...

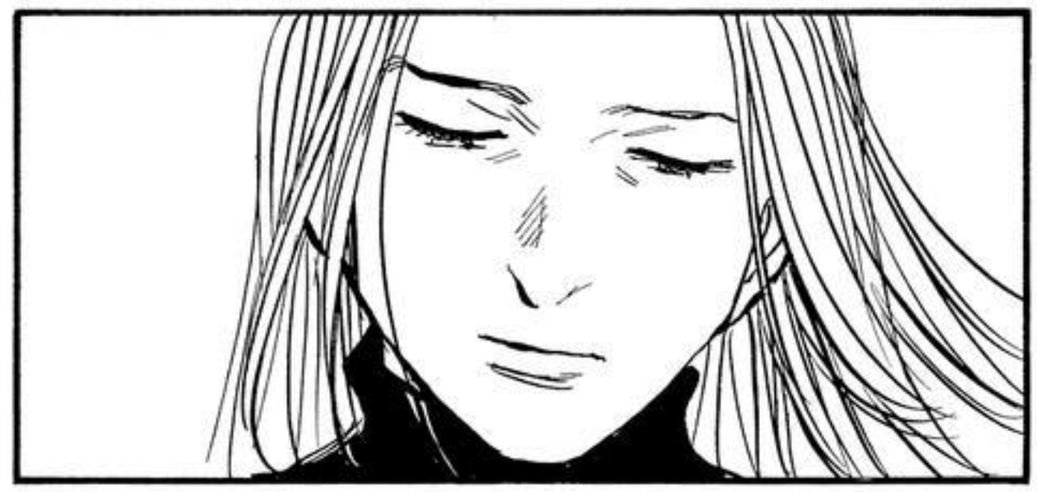

THERE IS NO WAY YOU CAN BEAT THIS ENEMY...
YOU COULDN'T EVEN BEAT ME JUST NOW, HERCULES...


OF COURSE NOT. I'M A ROBOT.
YOU DON'T PULL ANY PUNCHES, DO YOU...

HOW CAN A ROBOT WITH YOUR POWERS REFUSE TO FIGHT? EH?

IS THAT WHY YOU REFUSED TO BE DRAFTED DURING THE 39TH CENTRAL ASIAN CONFLICT?

A *PEACENIK*, RIGHT?



EVEN AFTER SO MANY ROBOTS WERE DESTROYED?!

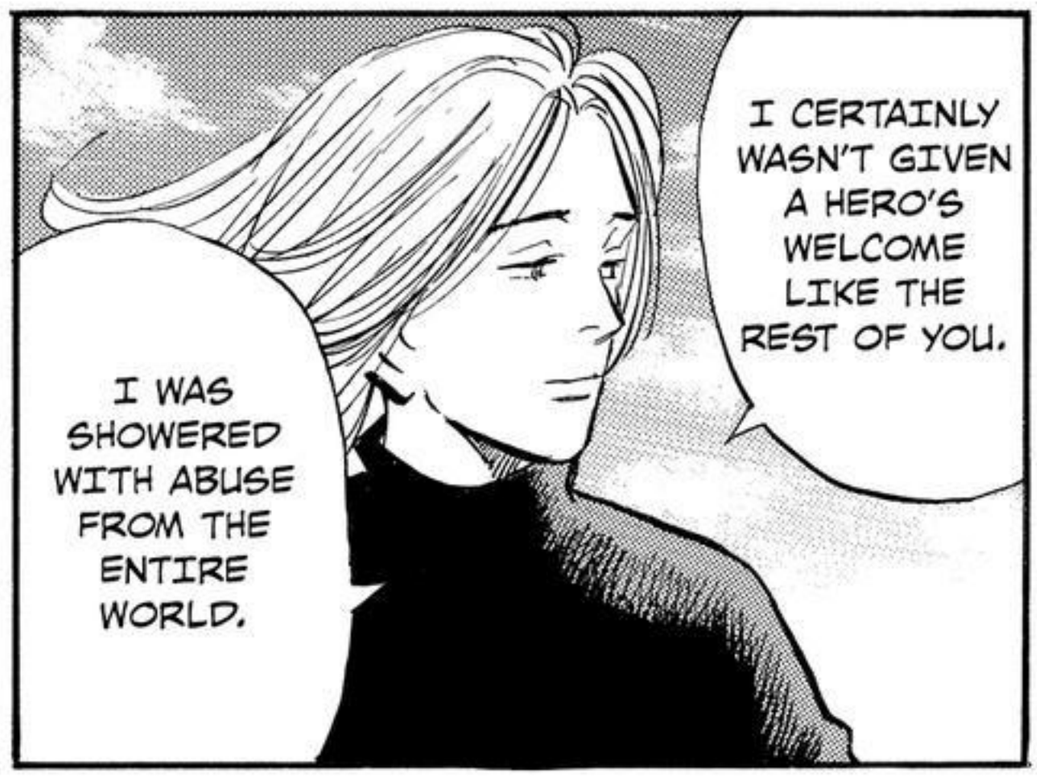
NOT A JUST WAR?

I *AM* SCARED...

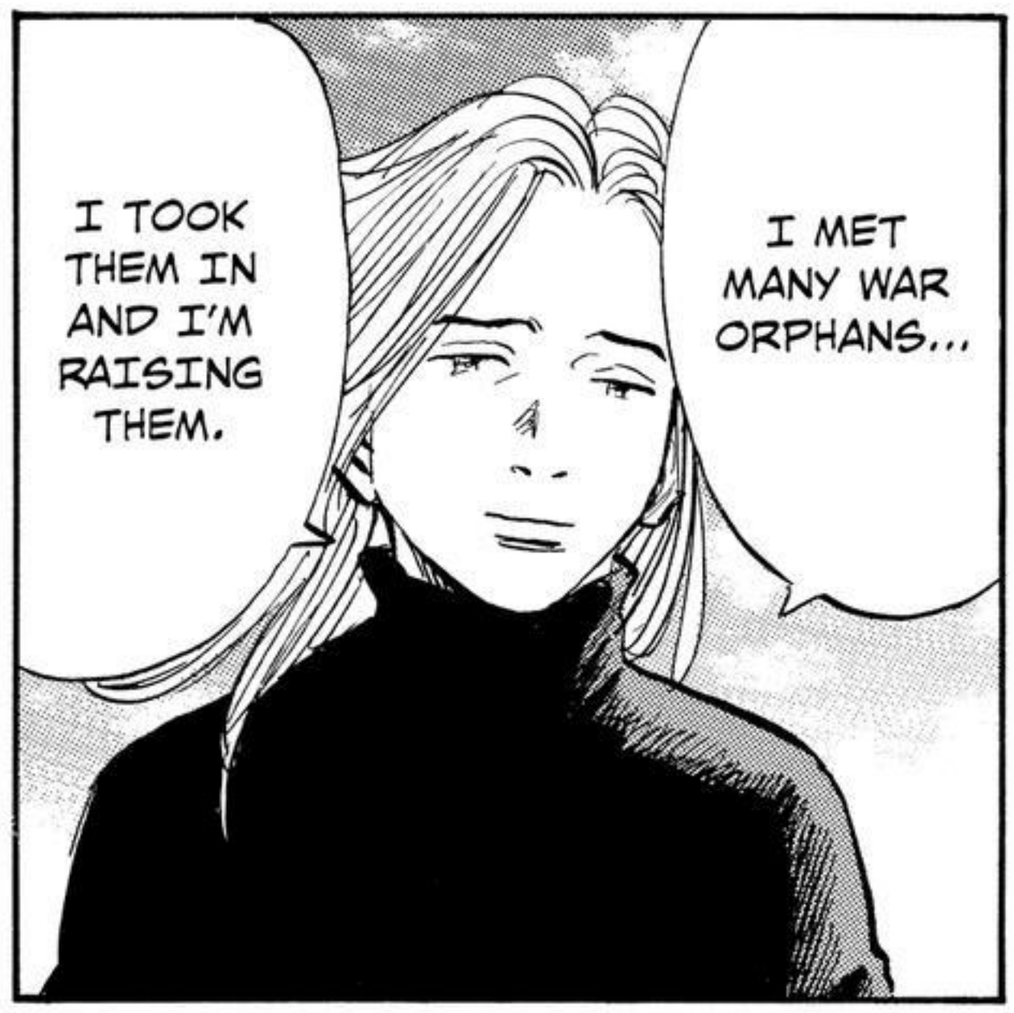
TRUE...

AND YOU JUSTIFIED IT WITH YOUR EXCUSES.

YOU WERE JUST *SCARED*.

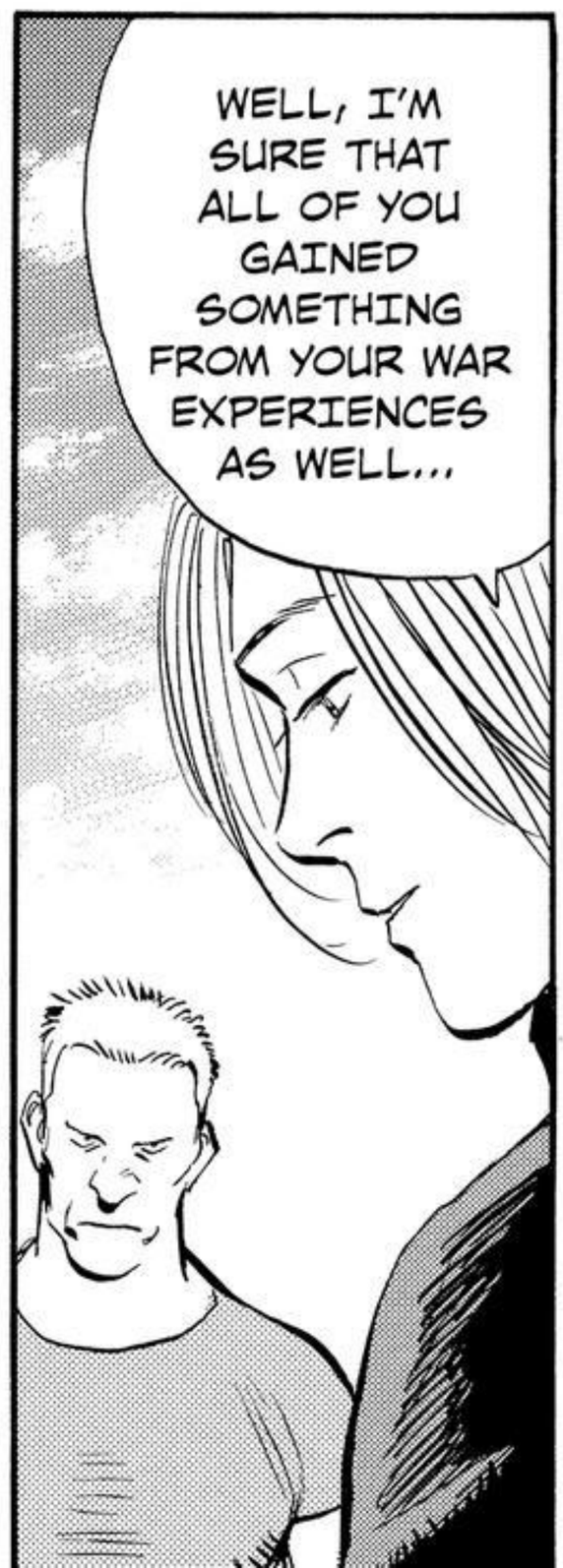

I WAS SHOWERED WITH ABUSE FROM THE ENTIRE WORLD.
I CERTAINLY WASN'T GIVEN A HERO'S WELCOME LIKE THE REST OF YOU.

I HEARD YOU WERE TREATED PRETTY BADLY AFTER THE WAR BECAUSE YOU REFUSED THE DRAFT AND ALL.

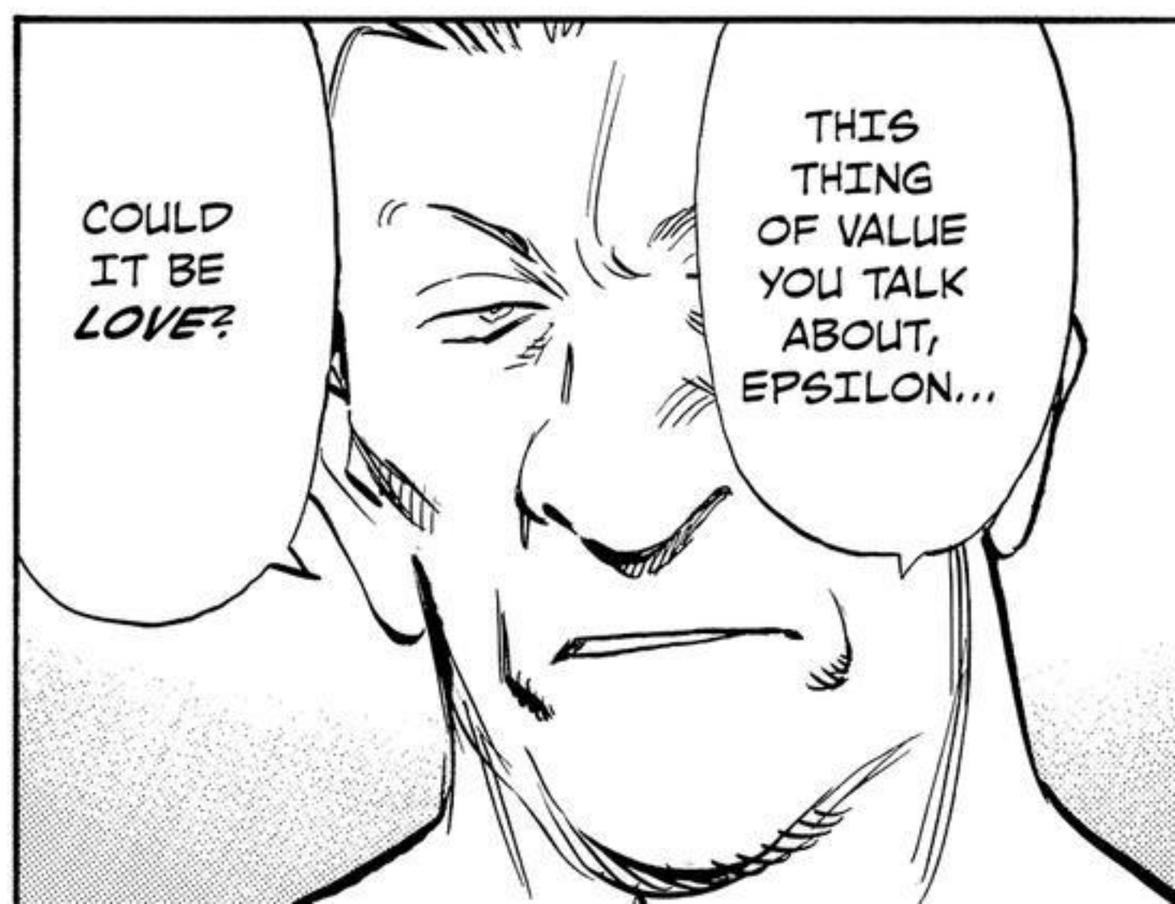

I TOOK THEM IN AND I'M RAISING THEM.
I MET MANY WAR ORPHANS...

BUT THANKS TO THAT EXPERIENCE, I GAINED SOMETHING OF MORE VALUE...

YEAH? WHAT?


WELL, I'M SURE THAT ALL OF YOU GAINED SOMETHING FROM YOUR WAR EXPERIENCES AS WELL...

AND IT JUST MAKES YOU A BIGGER TARGET FOR MORE CRITICISM...
YEAH, I'VE HEARD ALL ABOUT THAT. A ROBOT BRINGING UP HUMAN CHILDREN...


COULD IT BE *LOVE*?
THIS THING OF VALUE YOU TALK ABOUT, EPSILON...

PERHAPS THE ABILITY TO *HATE*?

SOMETHING *BAD* WILL SURELY HAPPEN!

AND IF THEY GET TOO CLOSE...

I FEEL THAT ROBOTS AND HUMANS ARE GROWING CLOSER TO EACH OTHER, HERCULES.

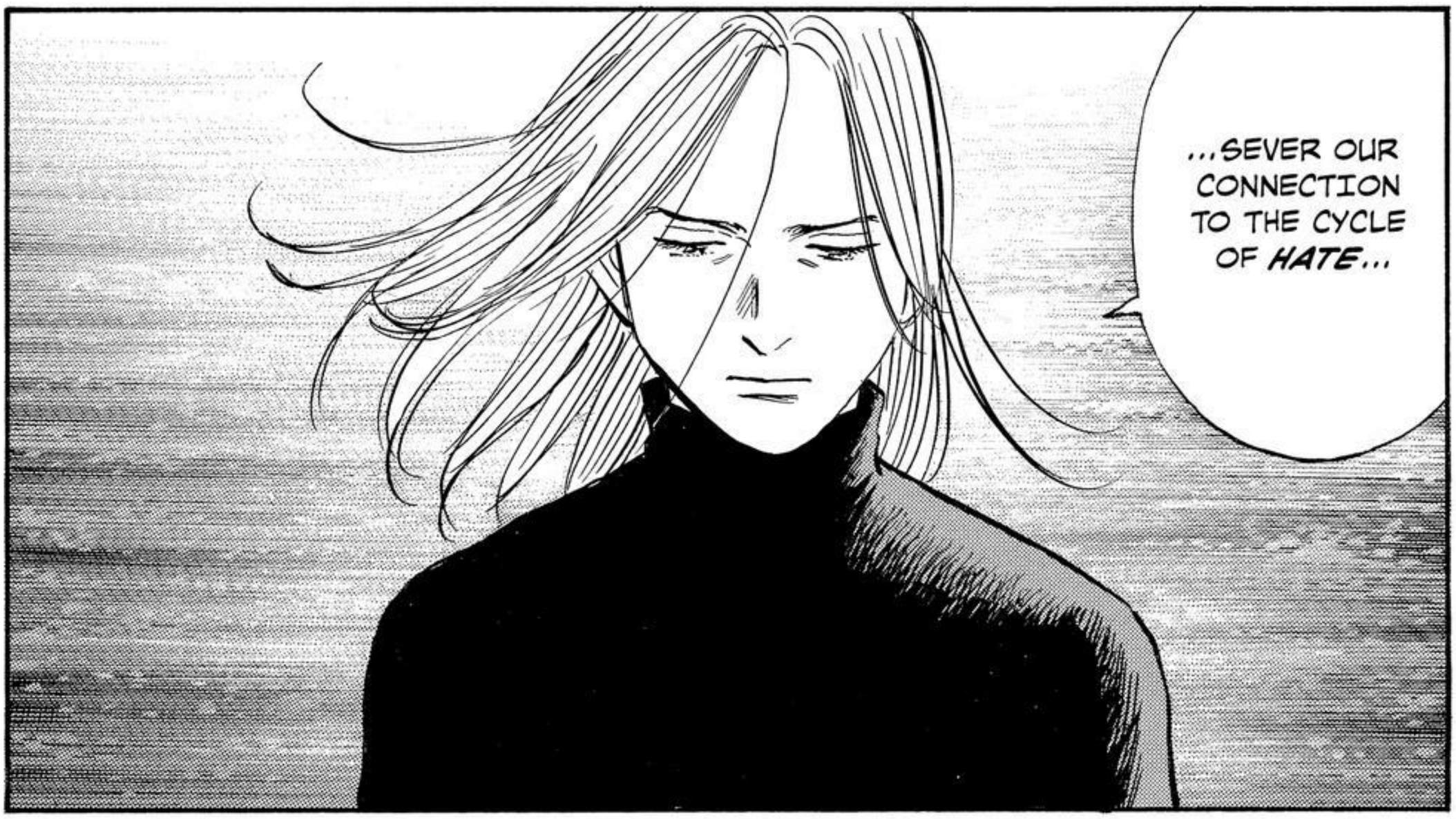
WE MUST SEVER OUR CONNECTION...

...SIGN...?

SOMETHING BAD?

THIS IS JUST THE FIRST SIGN...

YES. AND THIS...

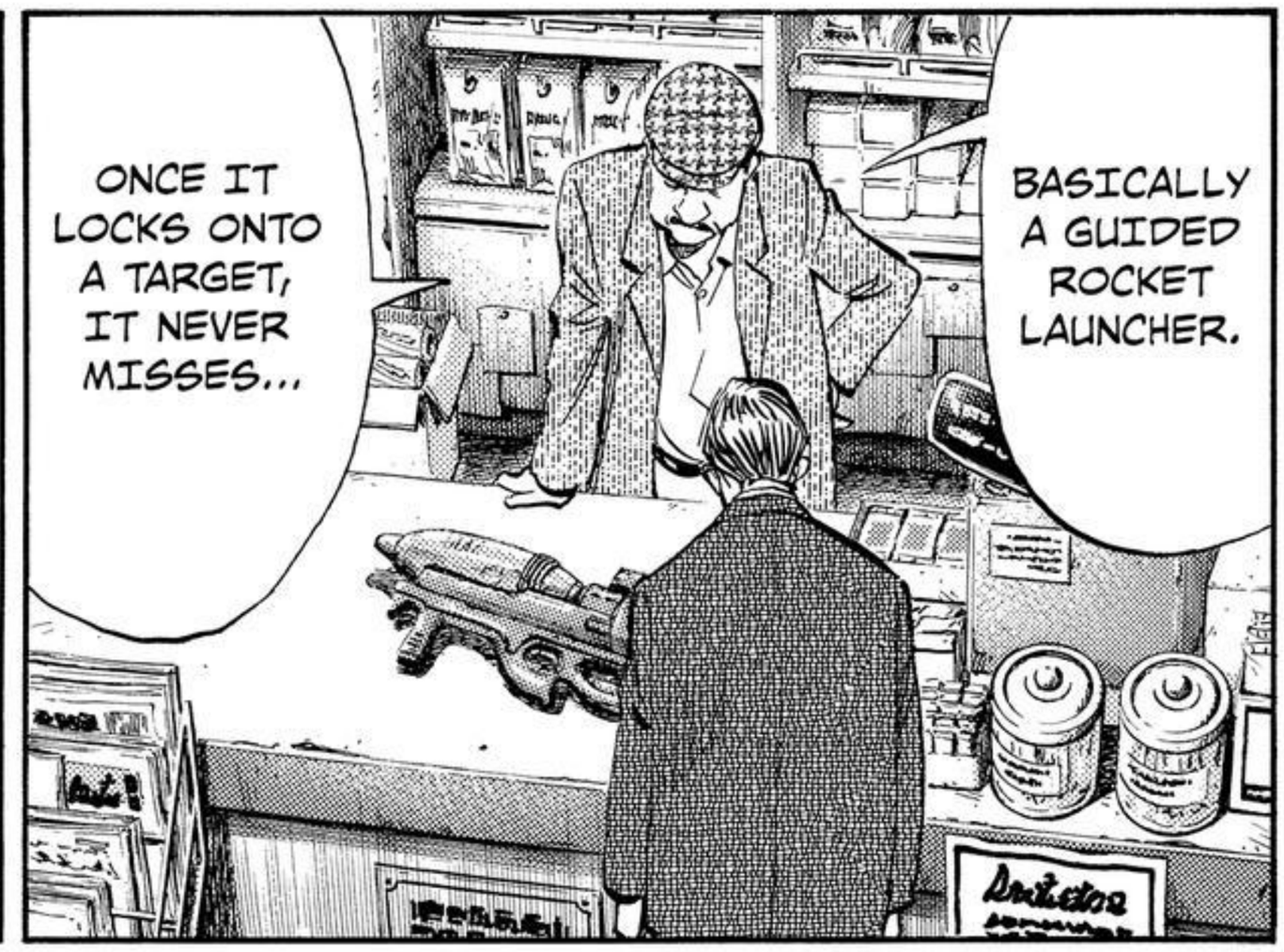

...SEVER OUR CONNECTION TO THE CYCLE OF *HATE*...

KRUG Haushaltsmarkt Getränke
Getränke
YEAH, THIS IS QUITE AN ITEM, MY FRIEND.

KARAOKE
Apotheke

IT'S A COMPACT CLUSTER CANNON.

IT GOT A LOTTA USE IN THE CENTRAL ASIAN WAR, BUT YA CAN'T MAKE 'EM OR SELL 'EM ANYMORE.

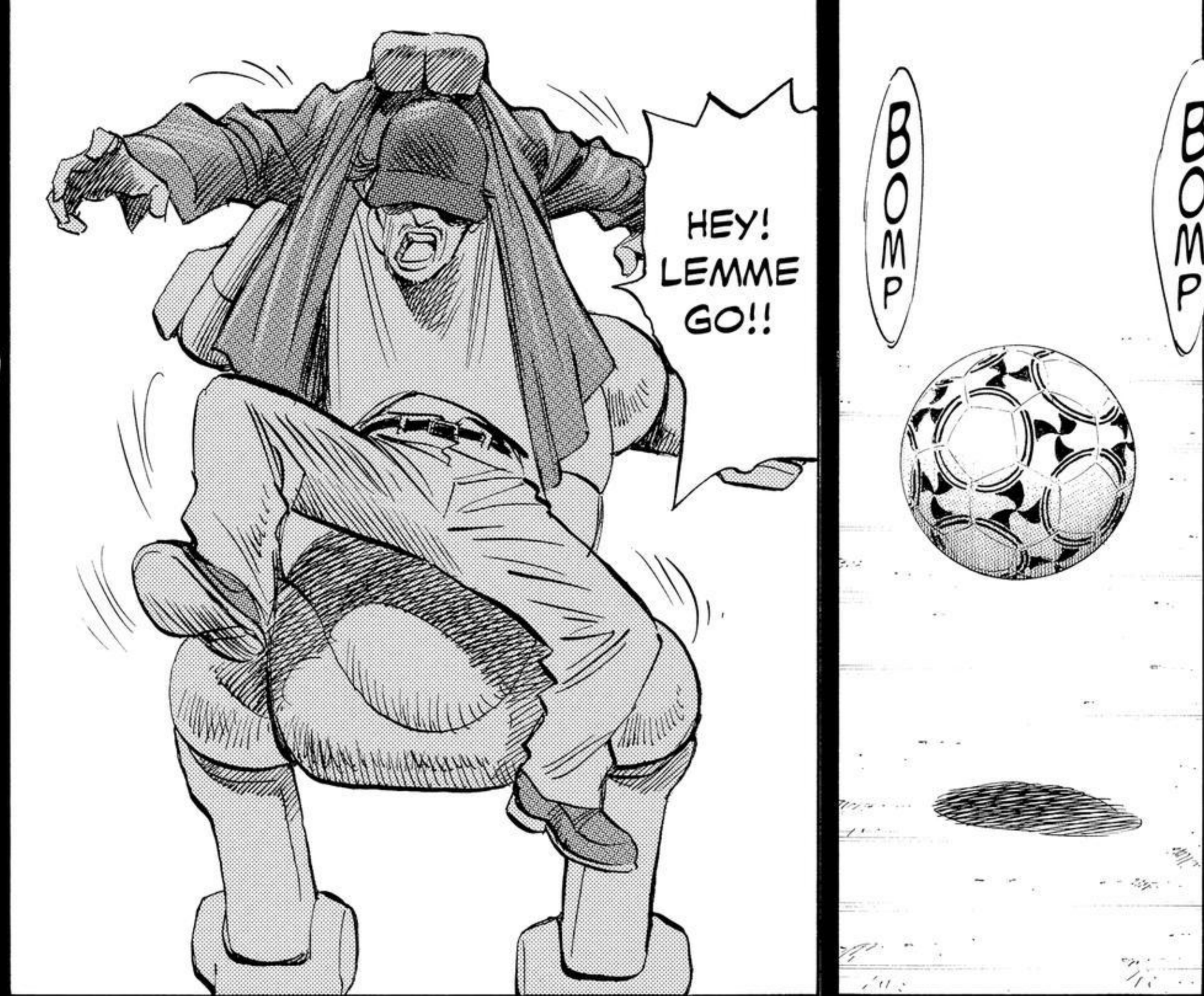


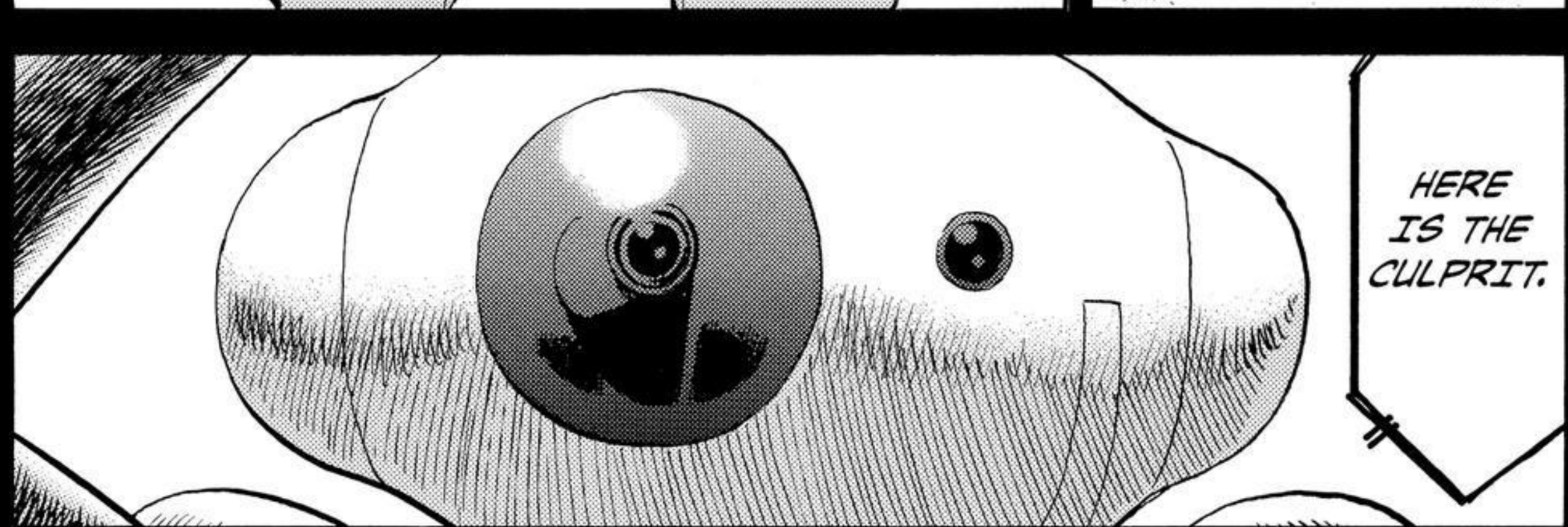
MERE POSSESSION OF ONE OF THESE MEANS AN AUTOMATIC CONVICTION OF *ATTEMPTED MURDER.*

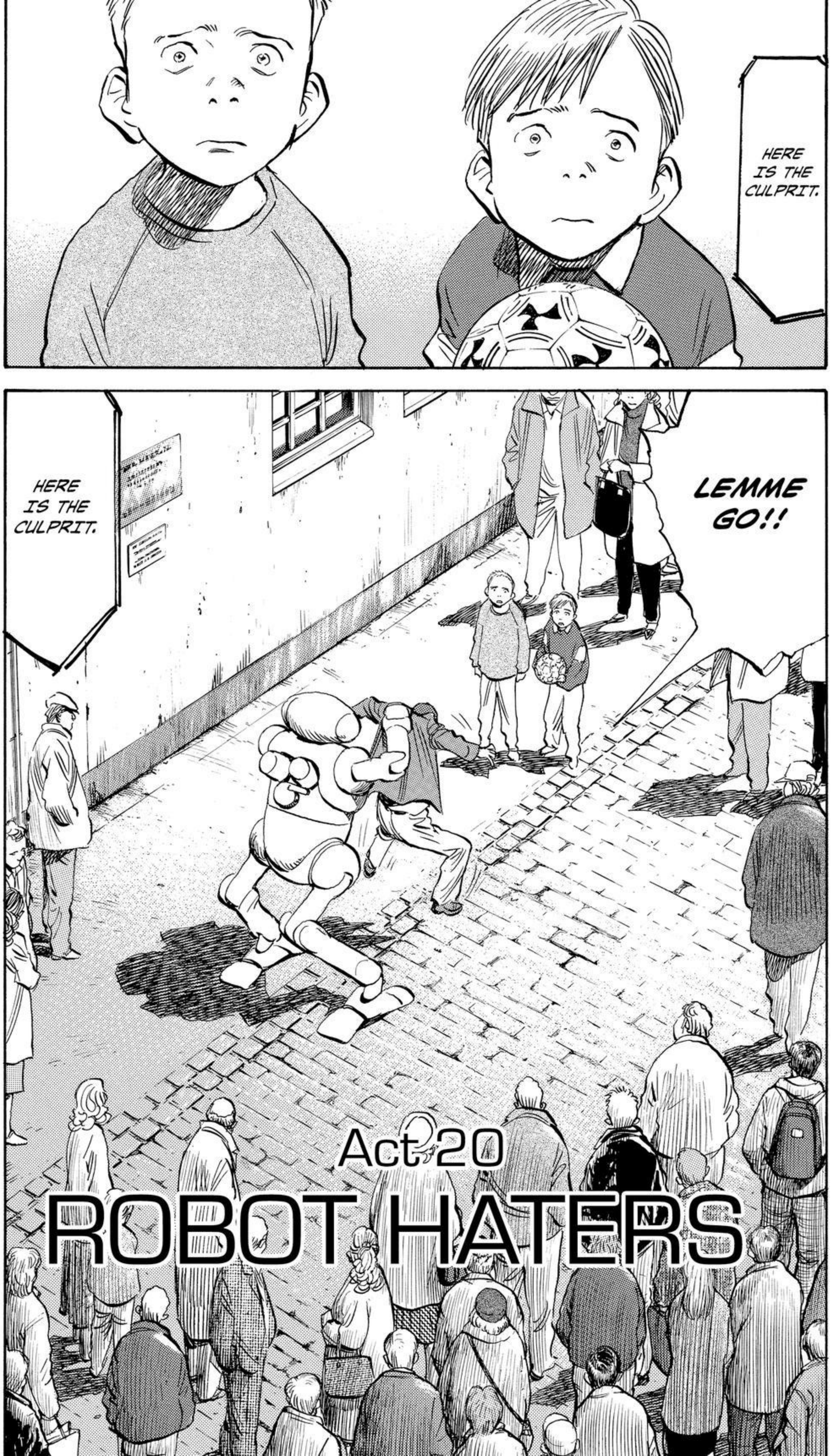
WELL... I'M NOT GOING TO KILL ANYONE...

NOT A *REAL* PERSON ANYWAY...

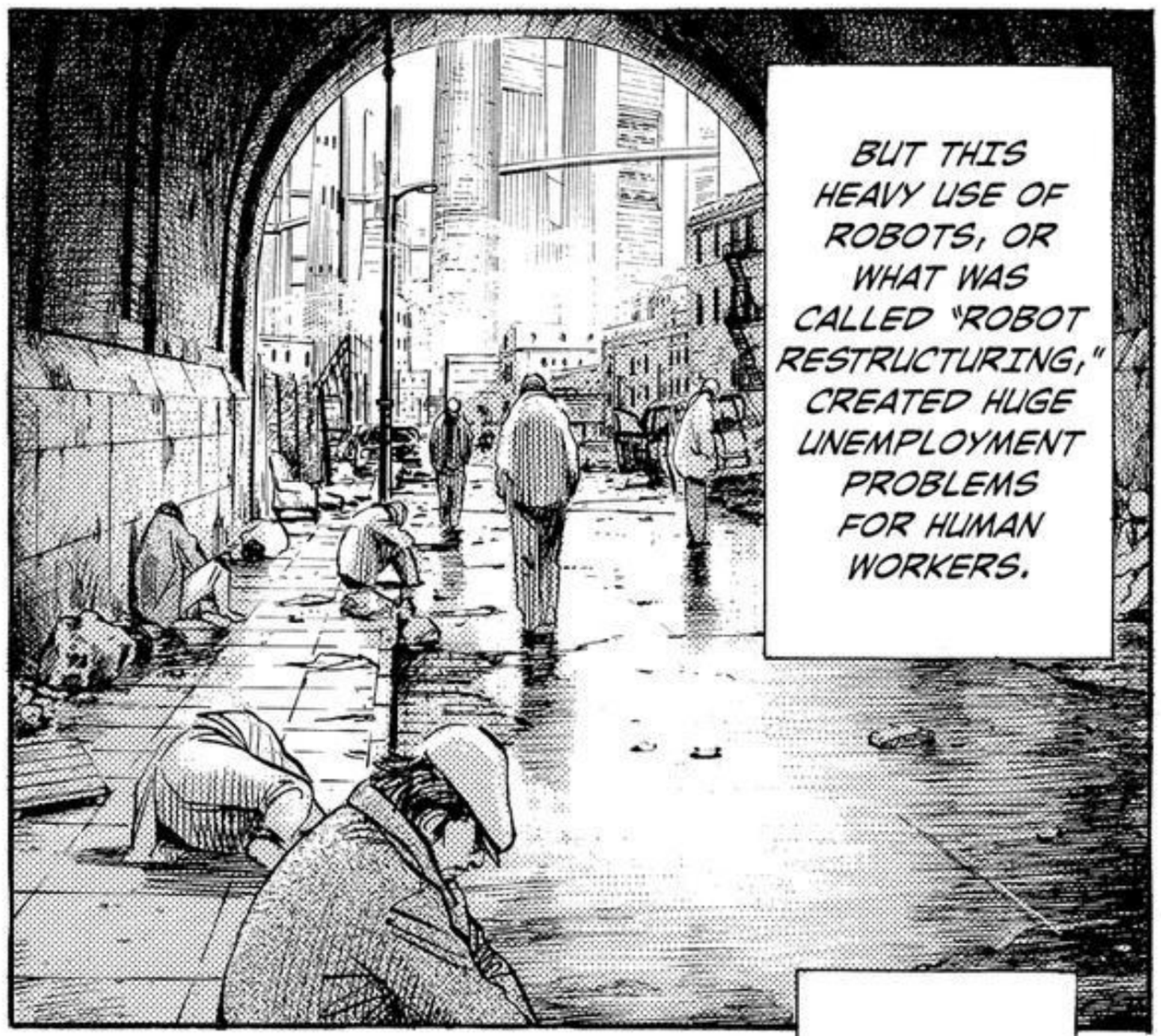
Act 20 ROBOT HATERS

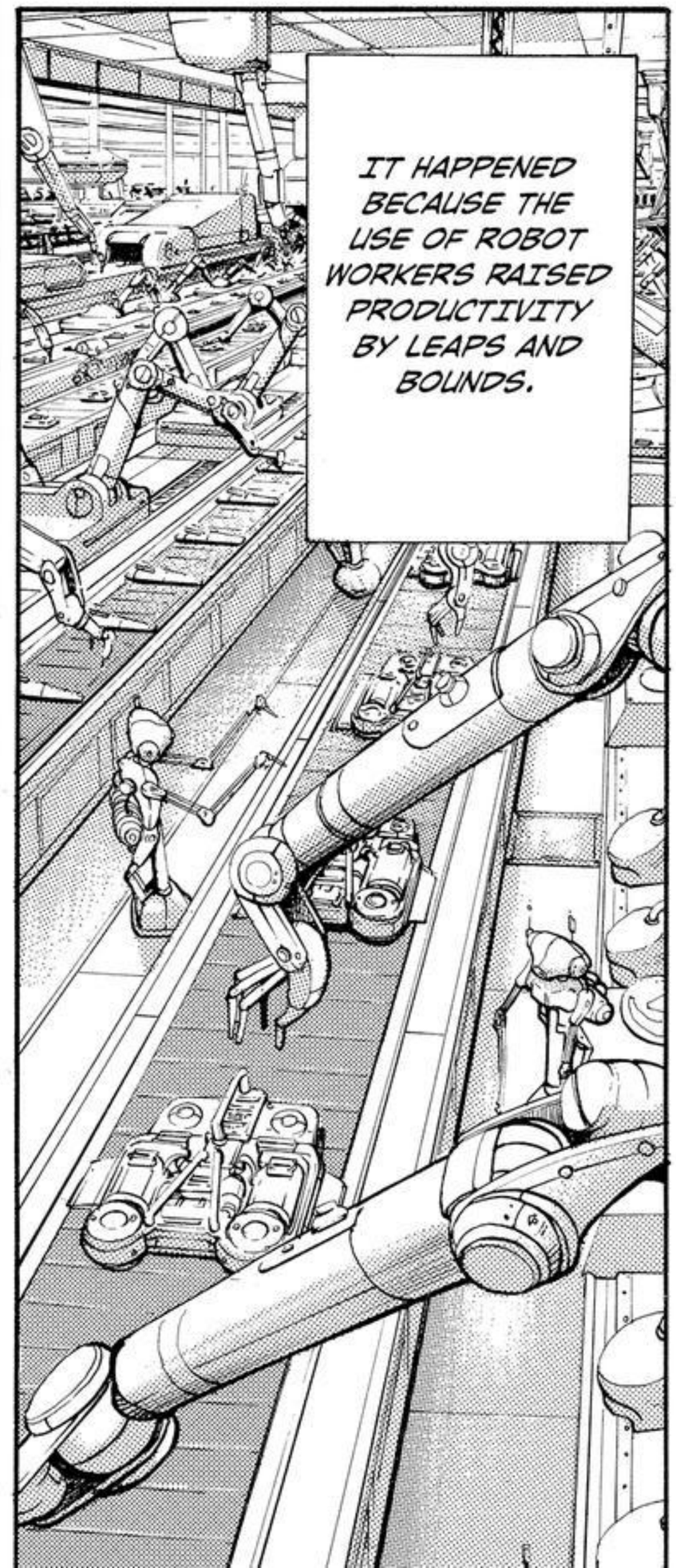





HERE IS THE CULPRIT.
HERE IS THE CULPRIT.
LEMME GO!!
Act 20
ROBOT HATERS

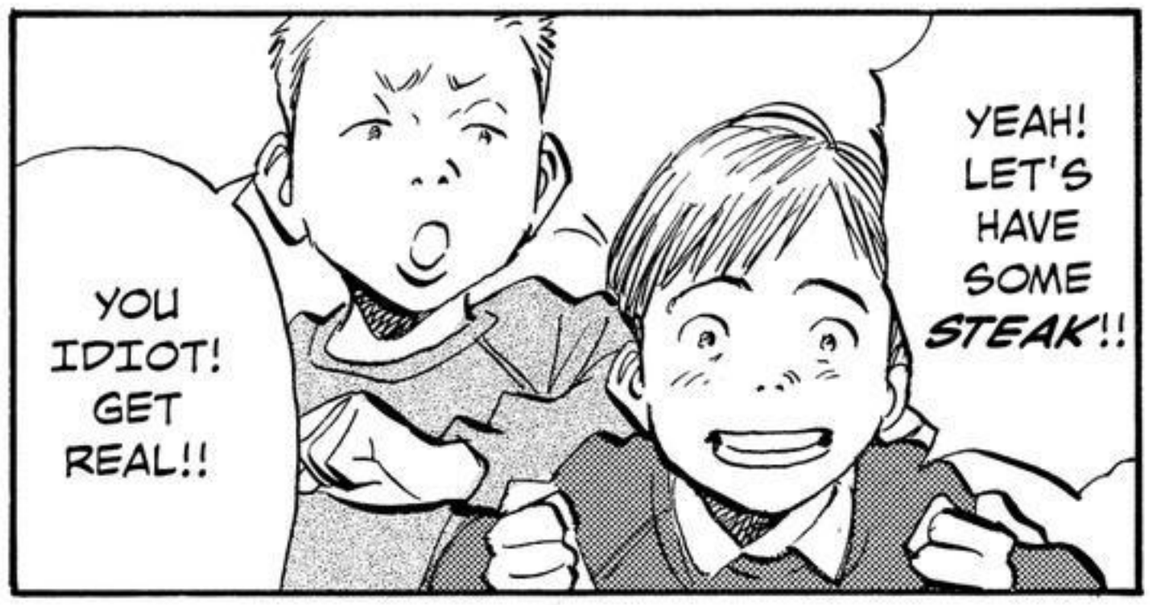
THE FACTORY WHERE MY FATHER WORKED CLOSED DOWN.



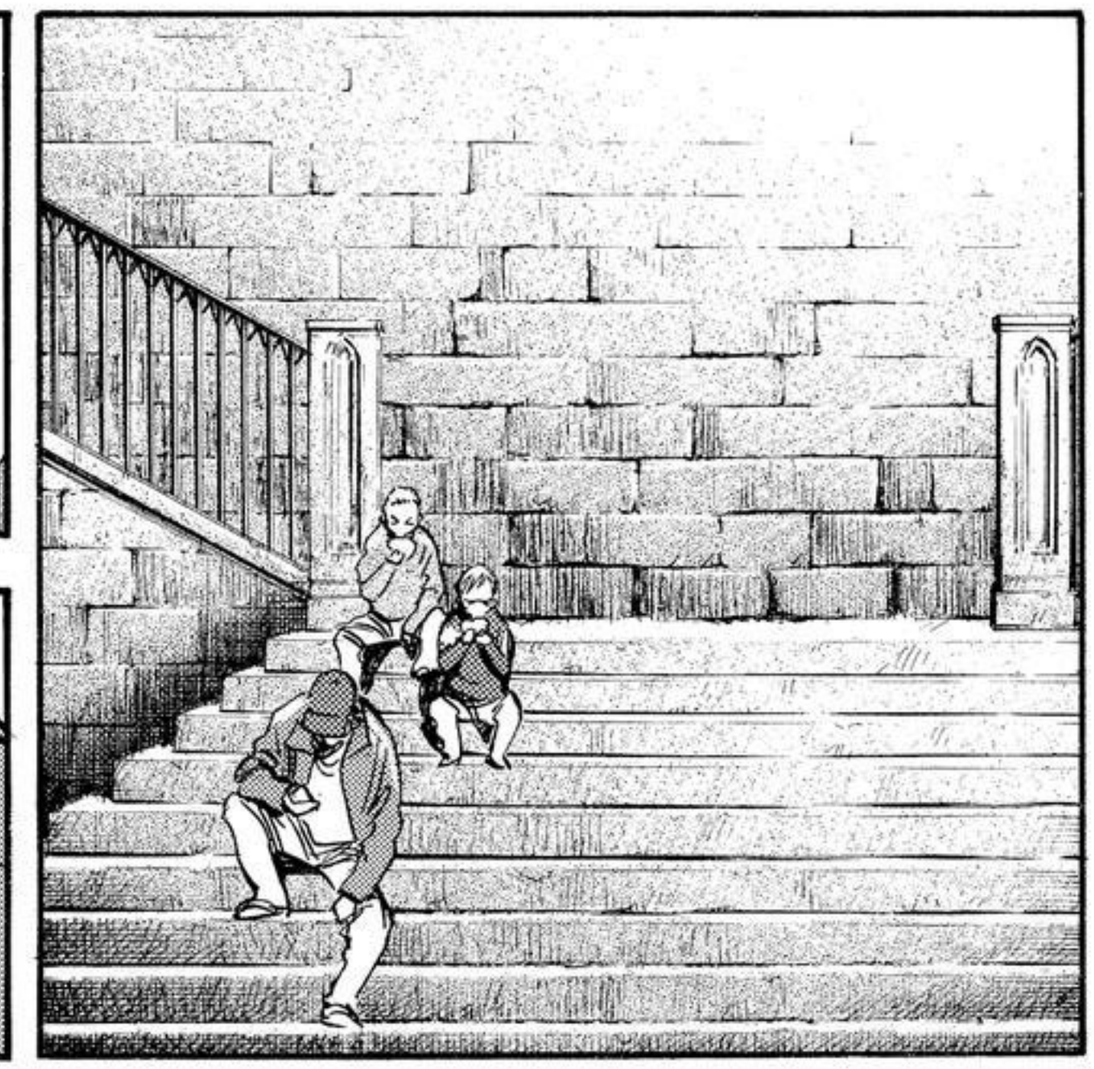


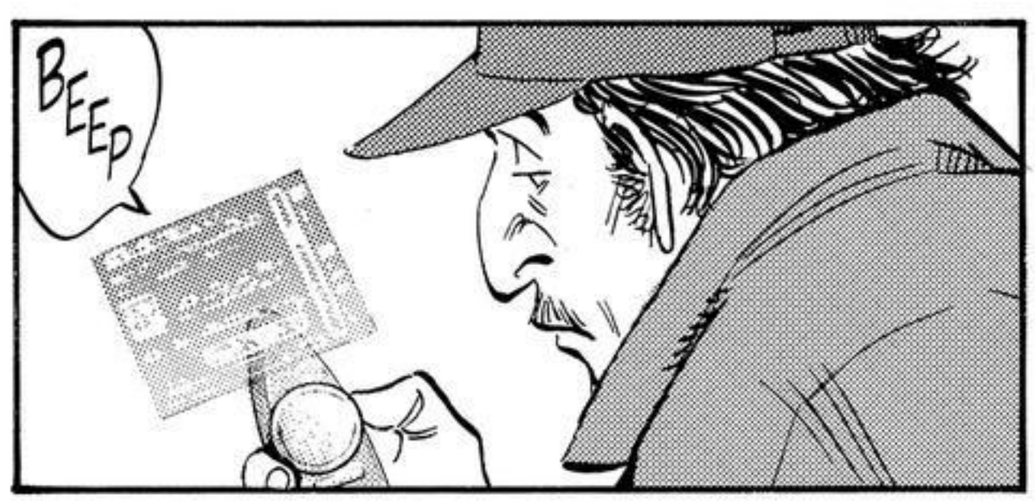
HUNGRY, YOU SAY?

DAD! I'M HUNGRY!
HM?

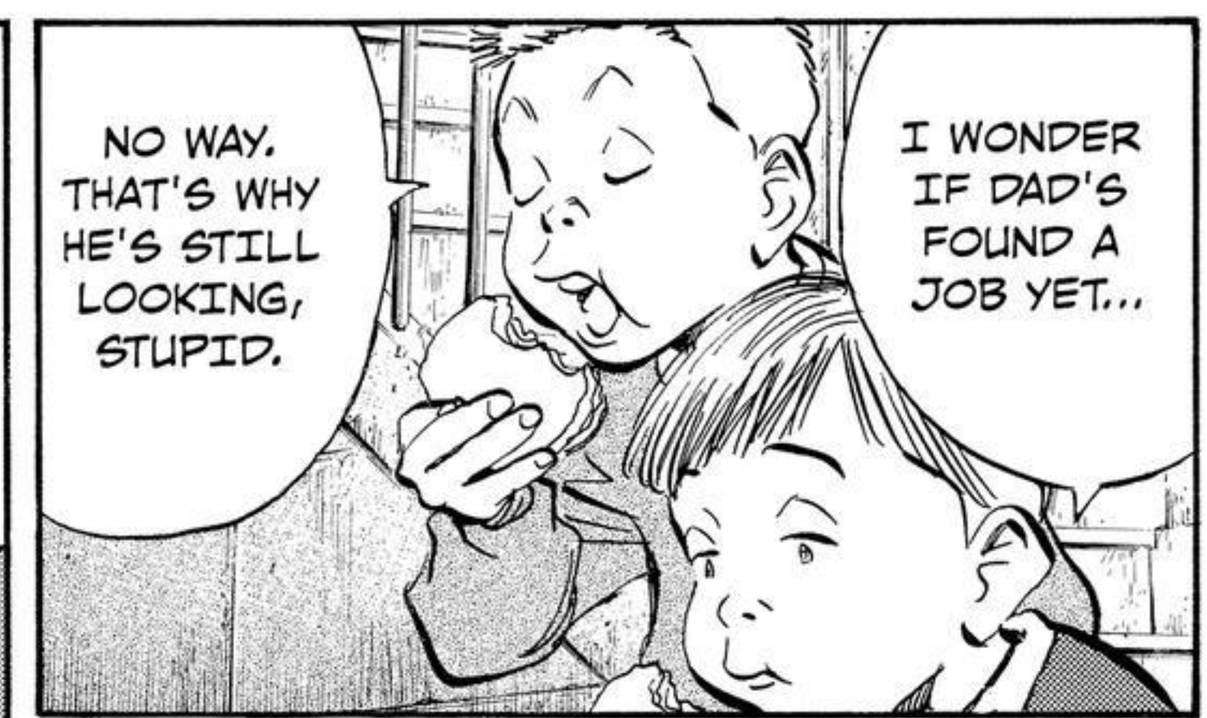

YEAH! LET'S HAVE SOME STEAK!!
YOU IDIOT! GET REAL!!

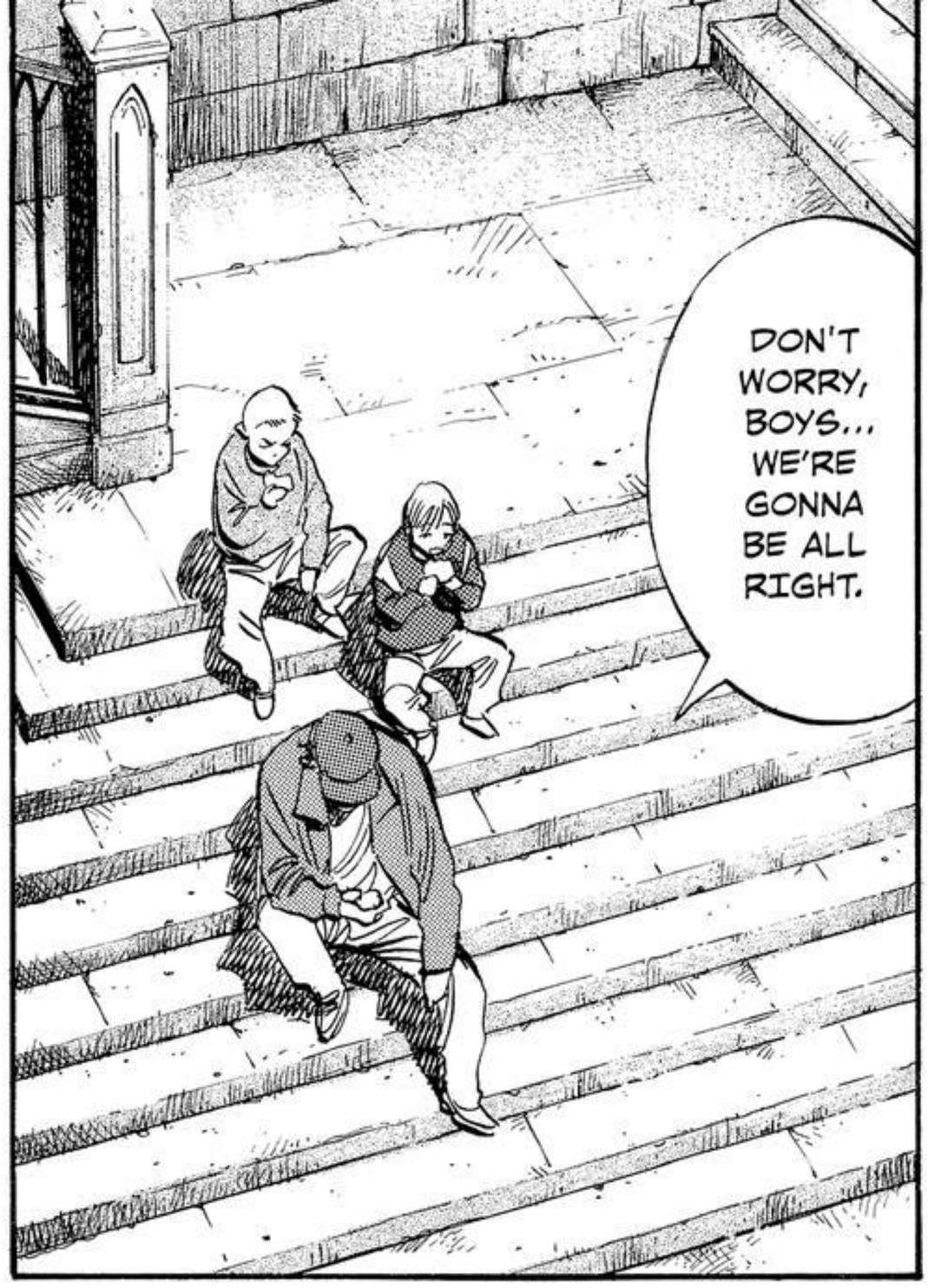
YUK... NOT ANOTHER SANDWICH...
WHAT'D I TELL YOU?

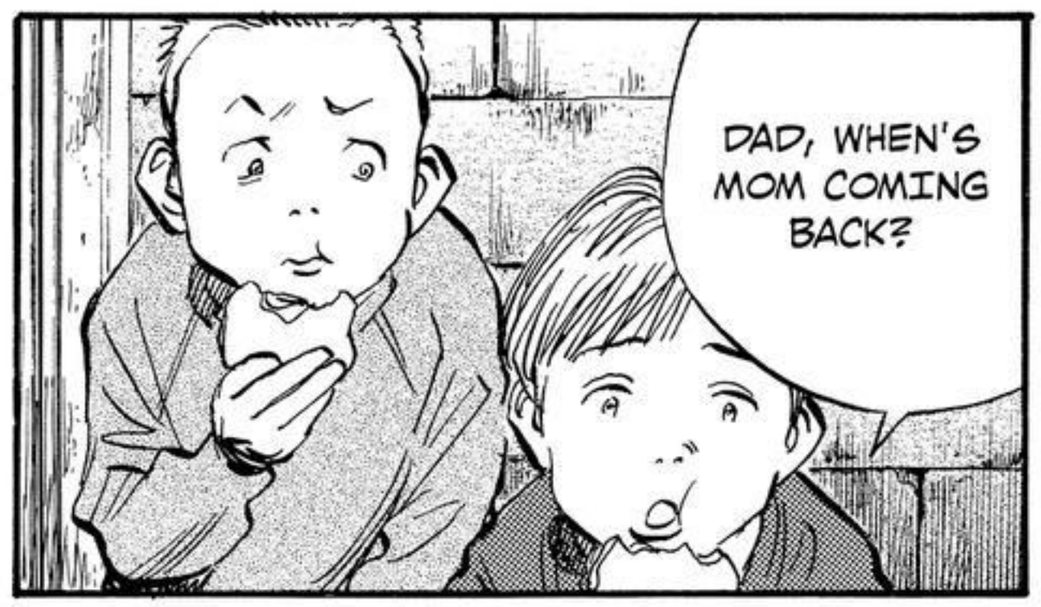


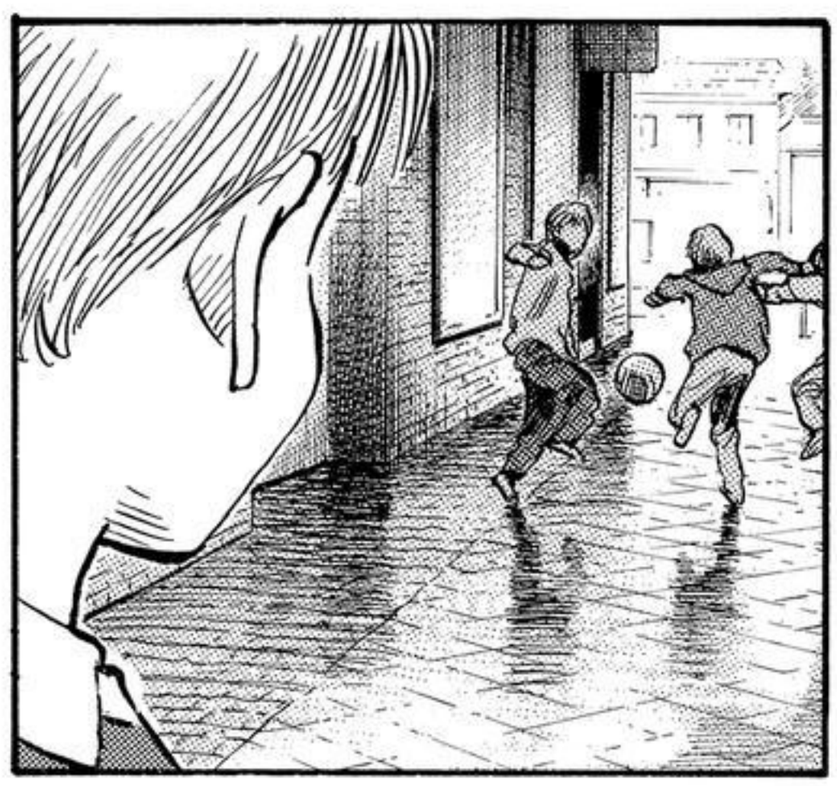

BEEEP

DON'T WORRY BOYS... IT'S GONNA BE ALL RIGHT.

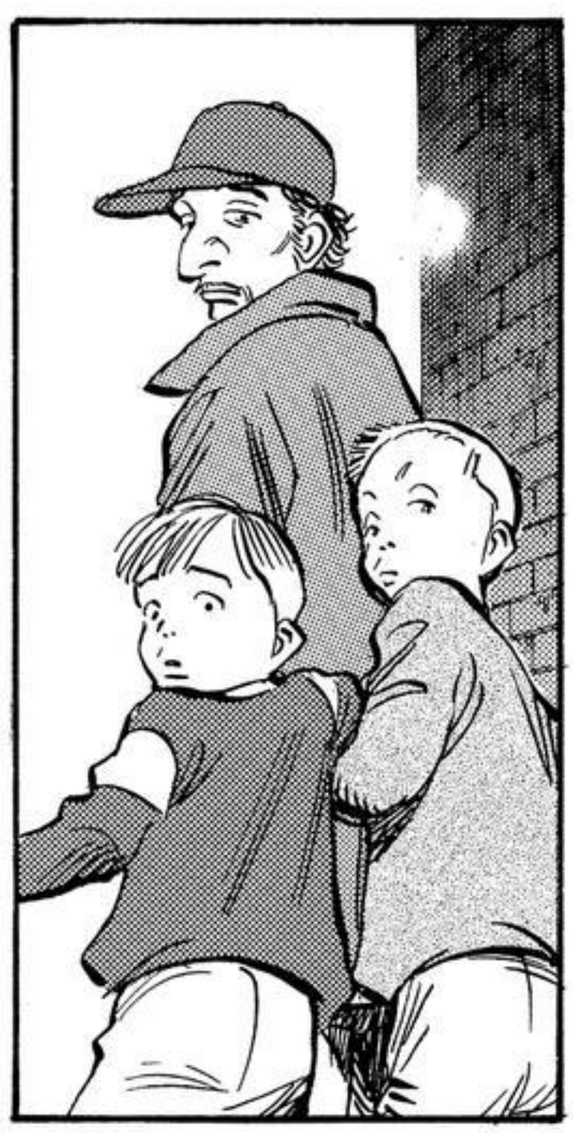

NO WAY. THAT'S WHY HE'S STILL LOOKING, STUPID.
I WONDER IF DAD'S FOUND A JOB YET...

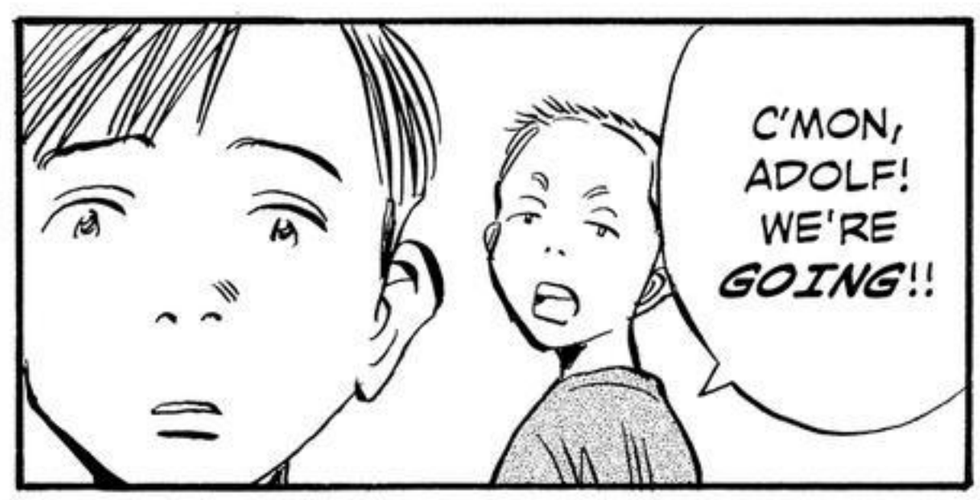

DON'T WORRY, BOYS... WE'RE GONNA BE ALL RIGHT.

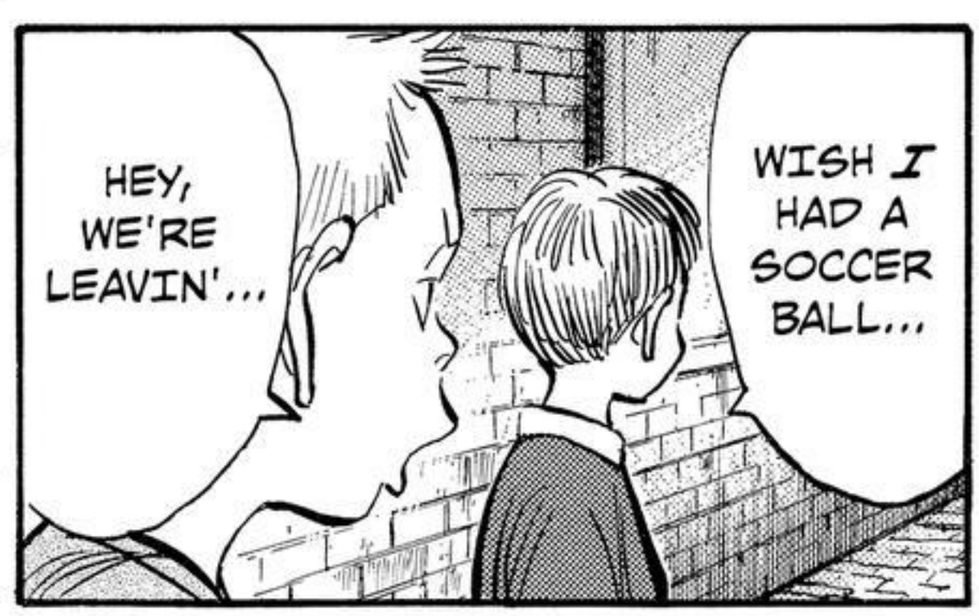

DAD, WHEN'S MOM COMING BACK?



KICK IT!
OVER HERE!

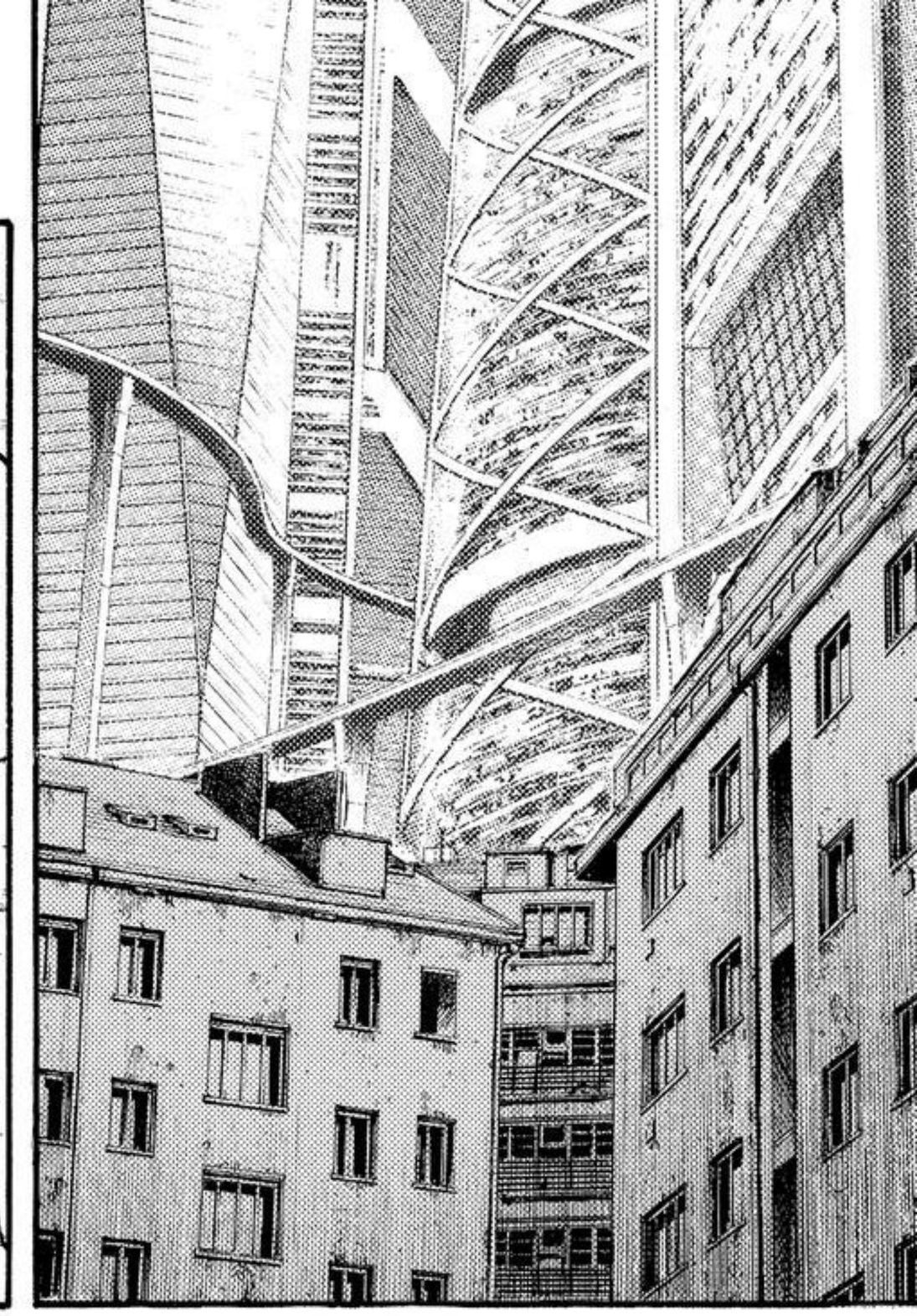



C'MON, ADOLF! WE'RE GOING!!


HEY, WE'RE LEAVIN'...
WISH I HAD A SOCCER BALL...

HERE YOU GO... A BALL...

HUH?

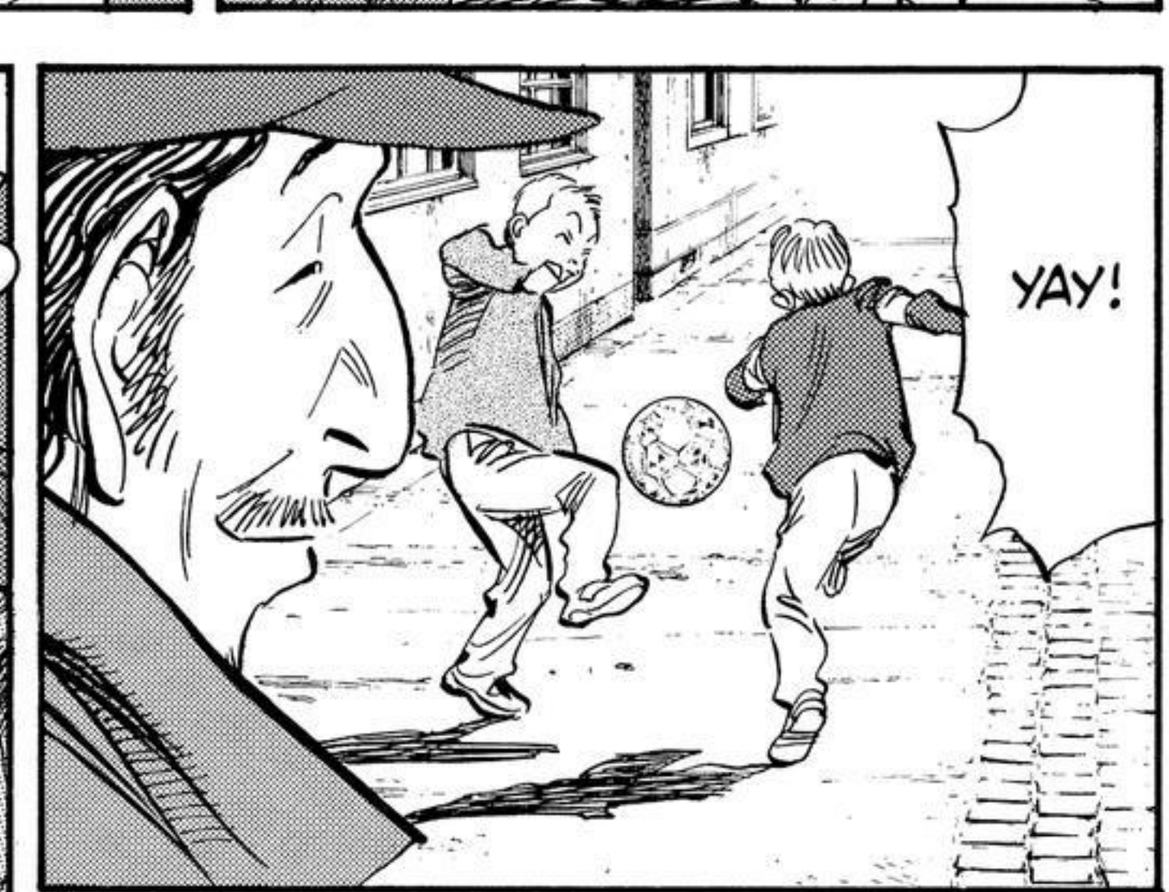


THANKS, DAD!!

DON'T WORRY, DON'T WORRY... JUST GO *PLAY*!

DAD... WHERE'D YOU GET THIS?
WOW! IT'S *BRAND NEW*!!

GRAB


YAY!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING! LEMME DOWN!

HERE IS THE CULPRIT.

WHOA!!!

POMP

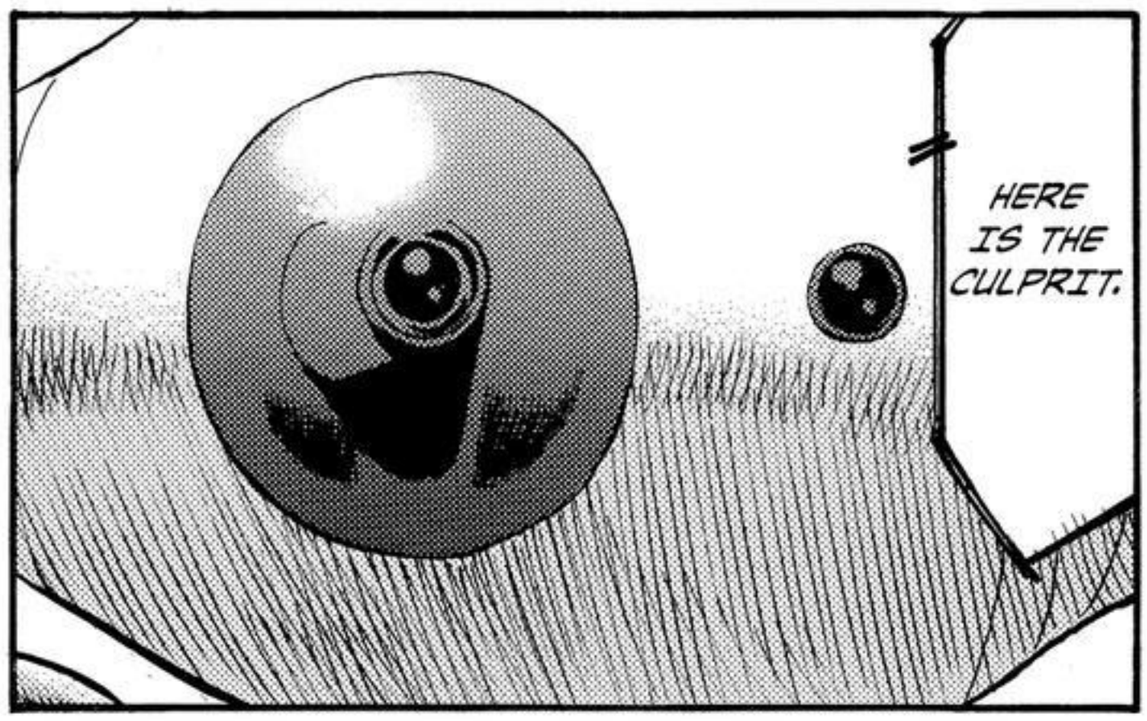
IT WASN'T ME! I *SWEAR*!

HE STOLE THE BALL FROM THE SHOP.

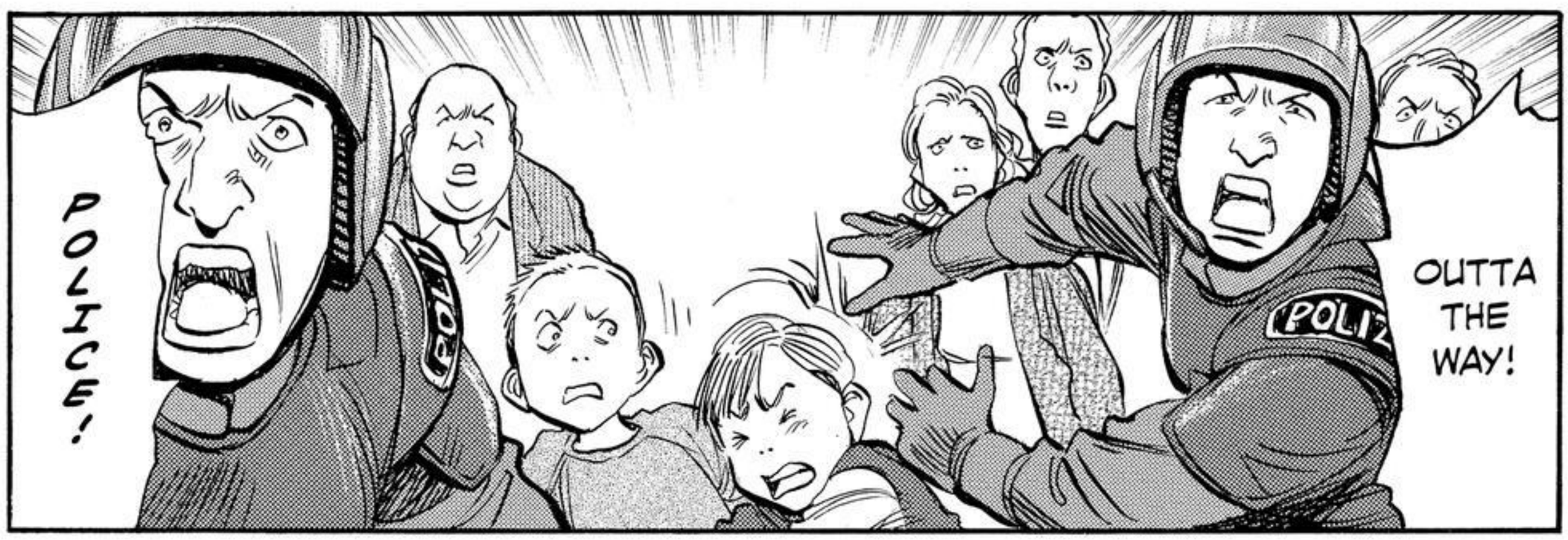
PLEASE... LET ME *GO*!

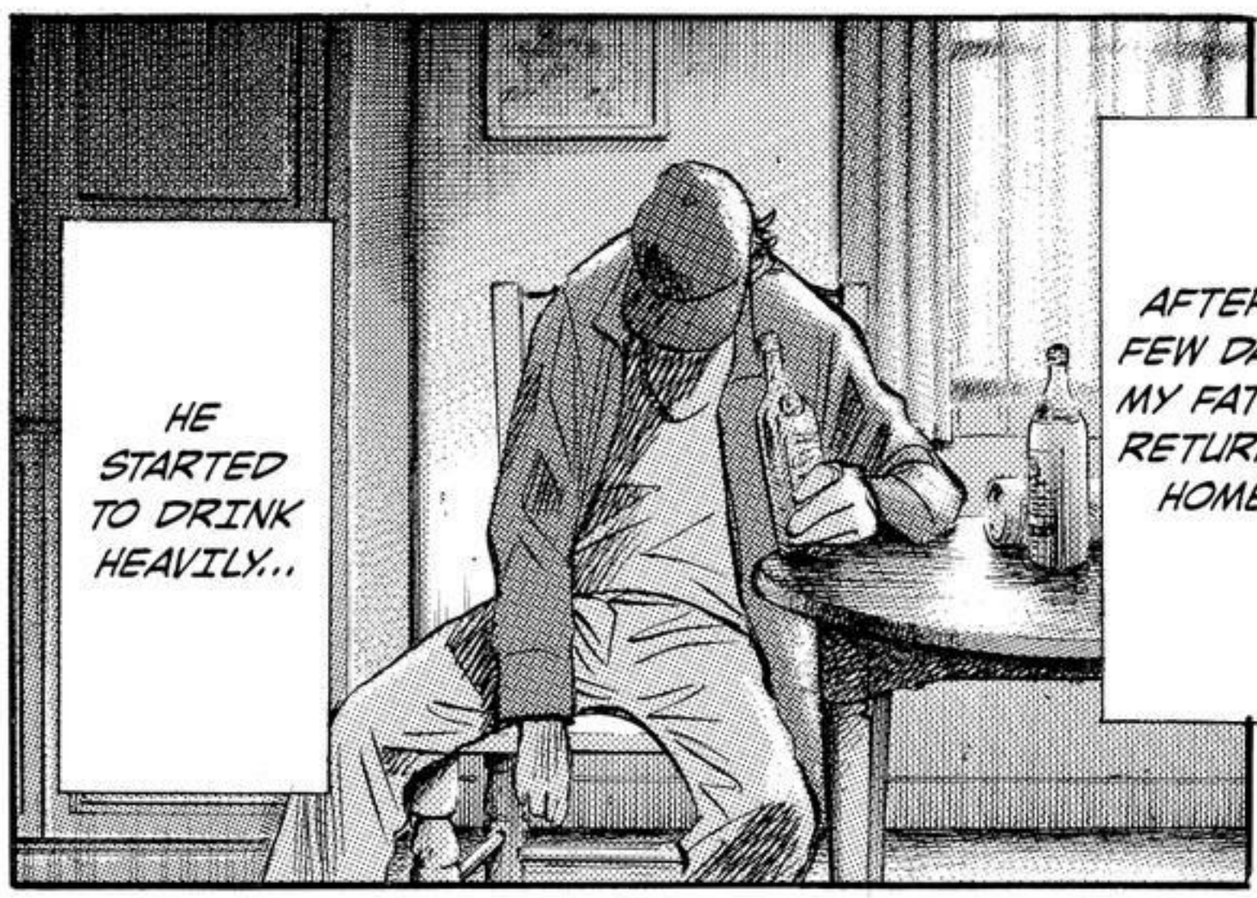
HERE IS THE CULPRIT.

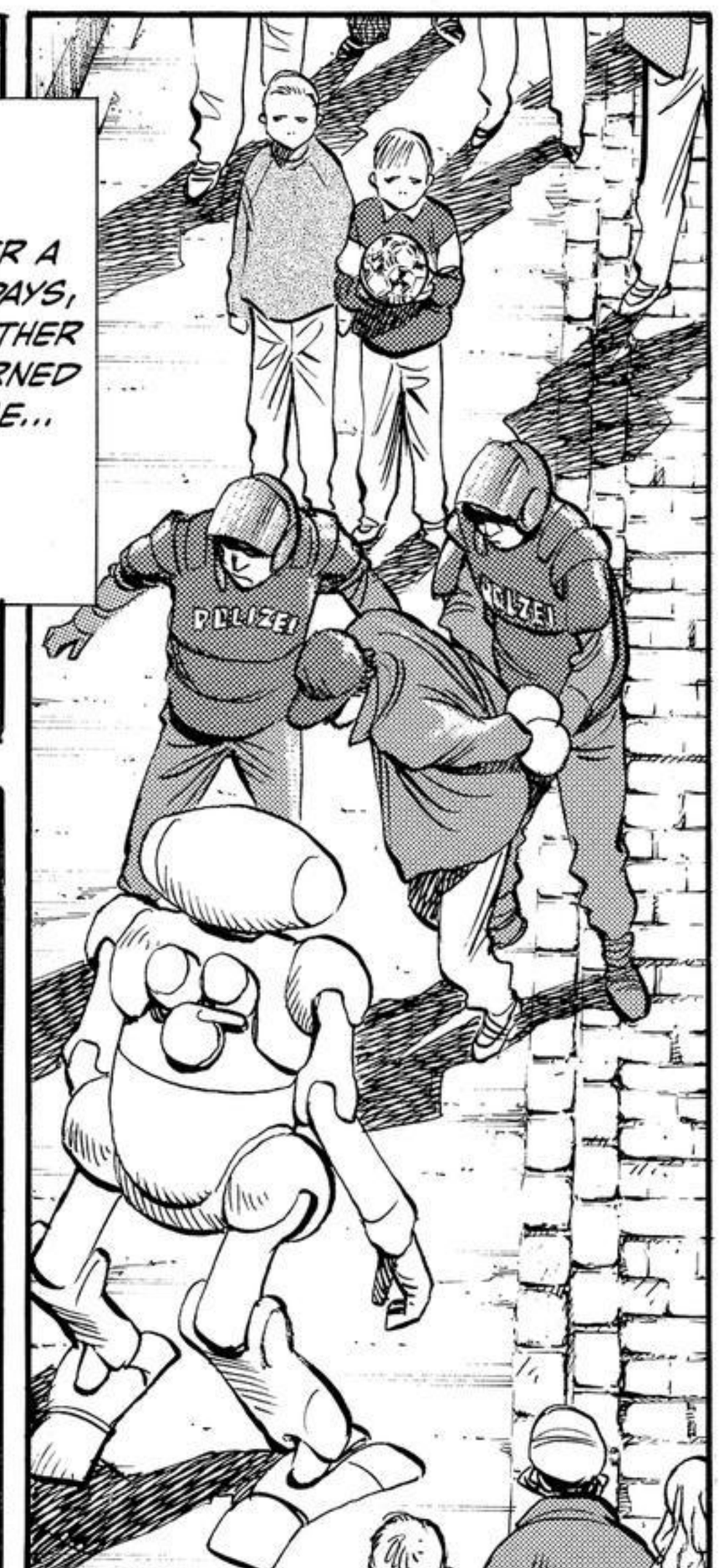
HERE IS THE CULPRIT.


HERE IS THE CULPRIT.

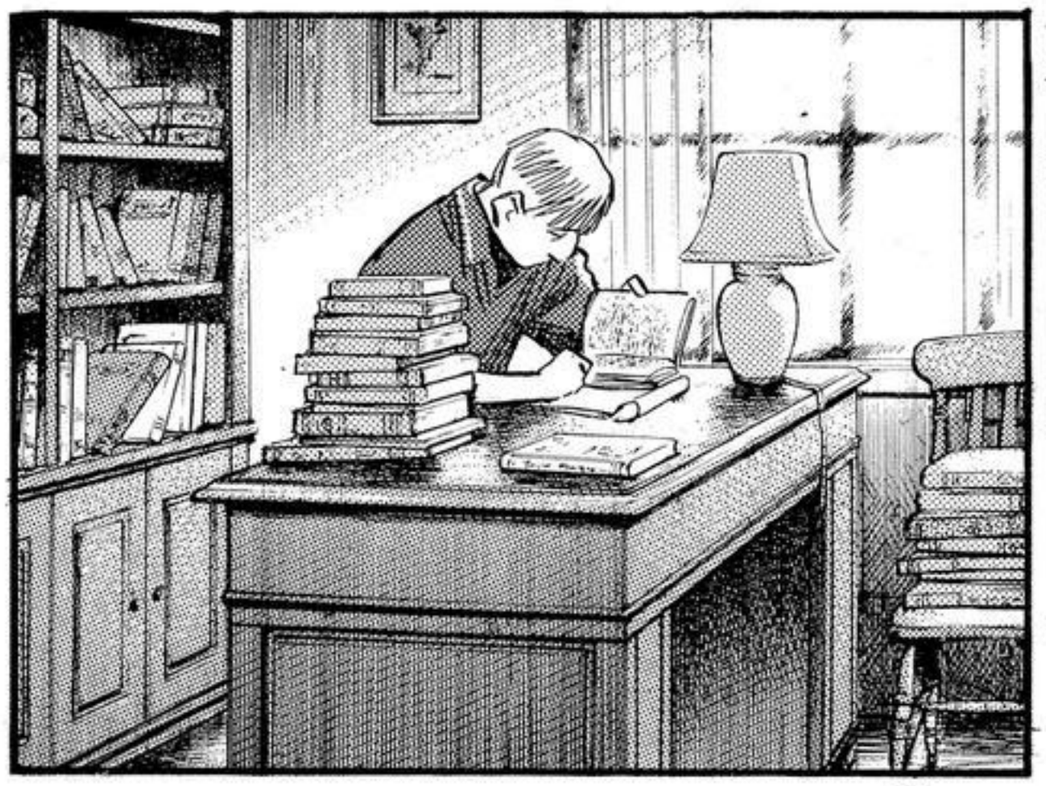
I'M SORRY... PLEASE, LEMME GO!


POLICE!
OUTTA THE WAY!


HE STARTED TO DRINK HEAVILY...


AFTER A FEW DAYS, MY FATHER RETURNED HOME...

AND THREE MONTHS LATER...

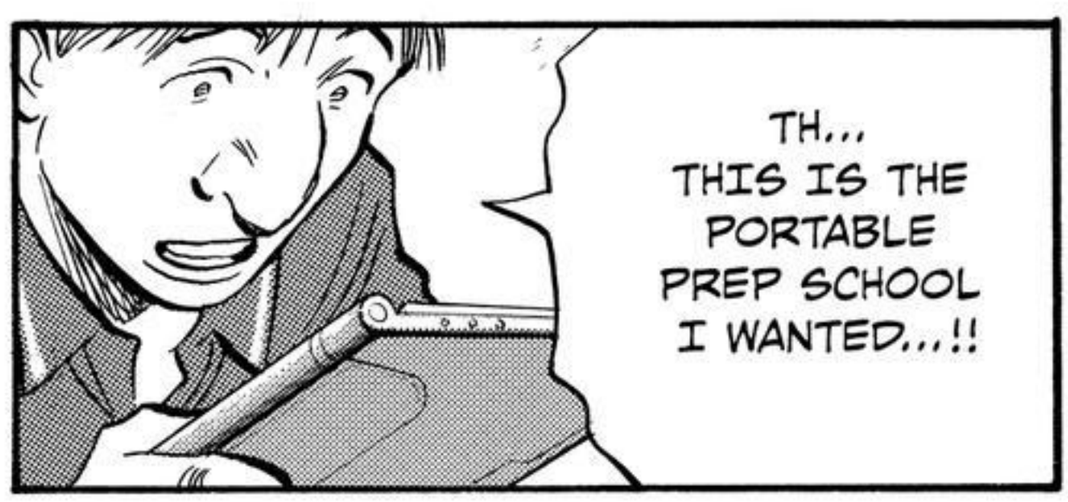


HE JUMPED OFF THE ROOF OF OUR BUILDING.

SLAM

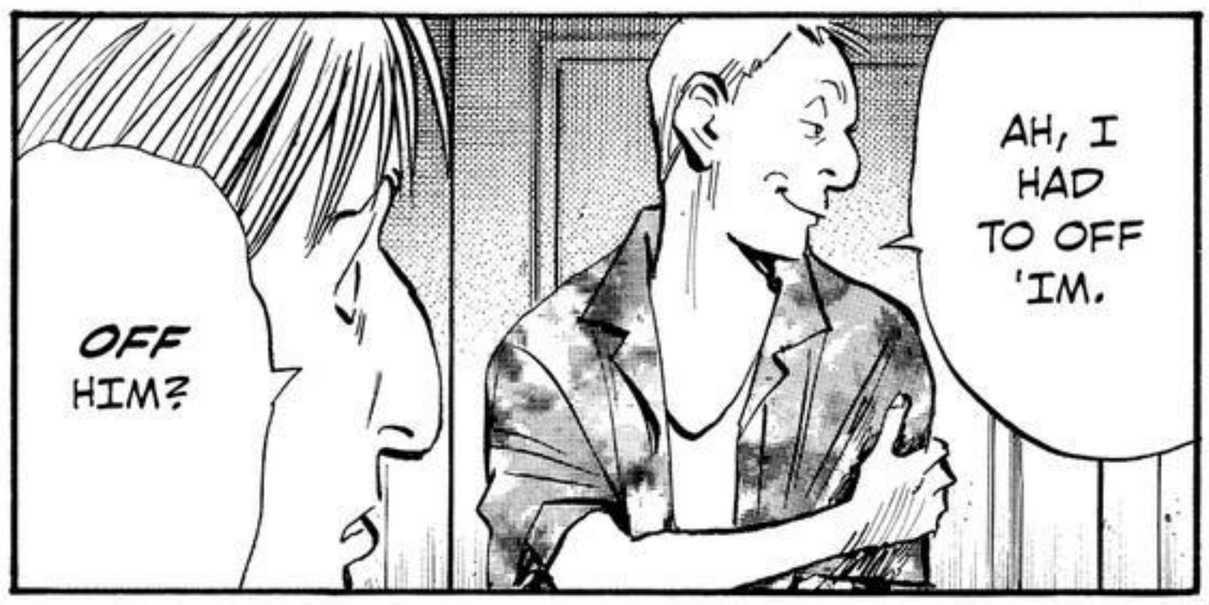
WHAT'S WRONG ...?

HUFF
HUFF


TH... THIS IS THE PORTABLE PREP SCHOOL I WANTED...!!

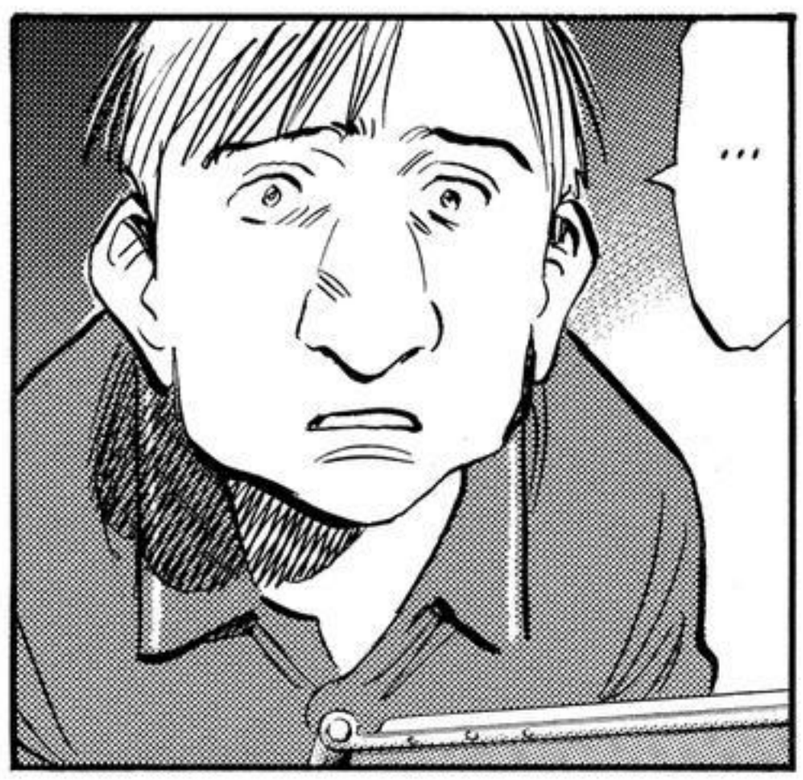
USE THIS INSTEAD!
NO WAY YOU'RE GONNA KEEP UP IN YOUR STUDIES WITH PENCIL AND PAPER.

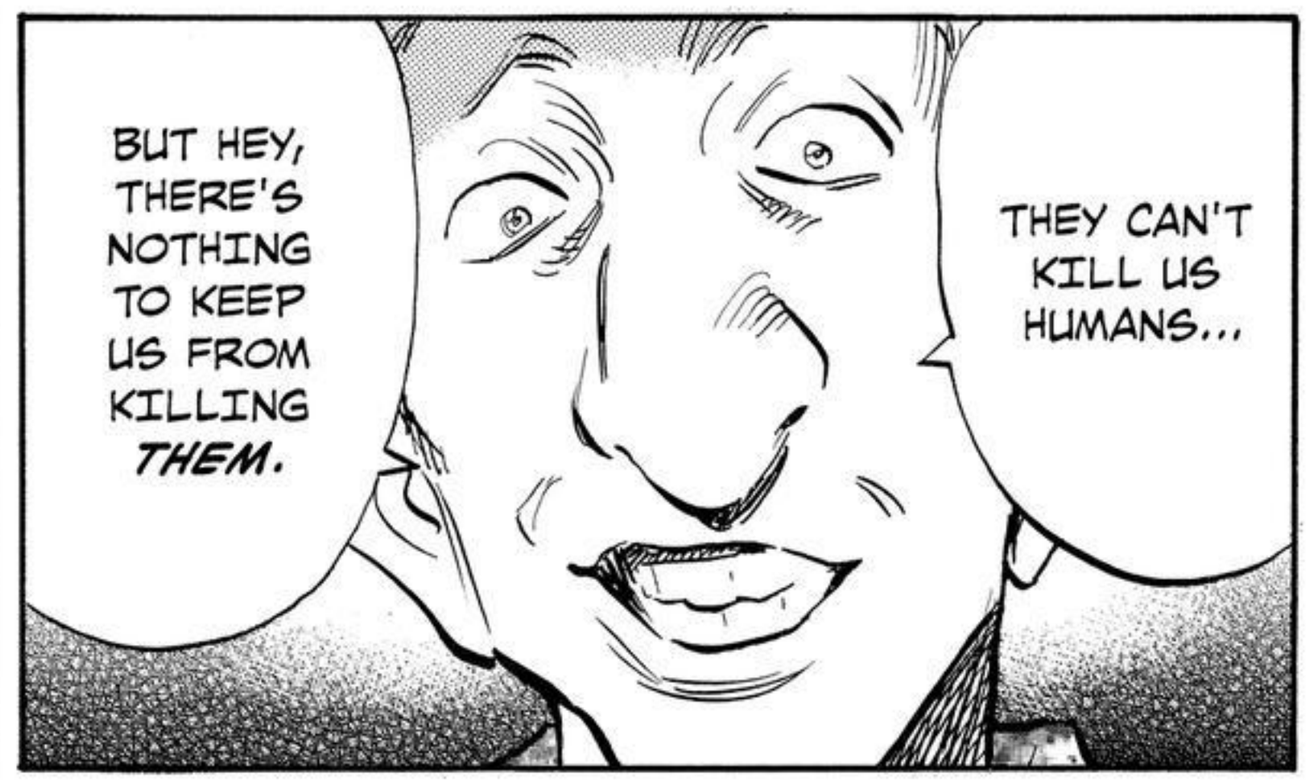
HERE! THIS IS FOR YOU, KID BROTHER...


OFF HIM?
AH, I HAD TO OFF 'IM.

YEAH, JUST A ROBOT.

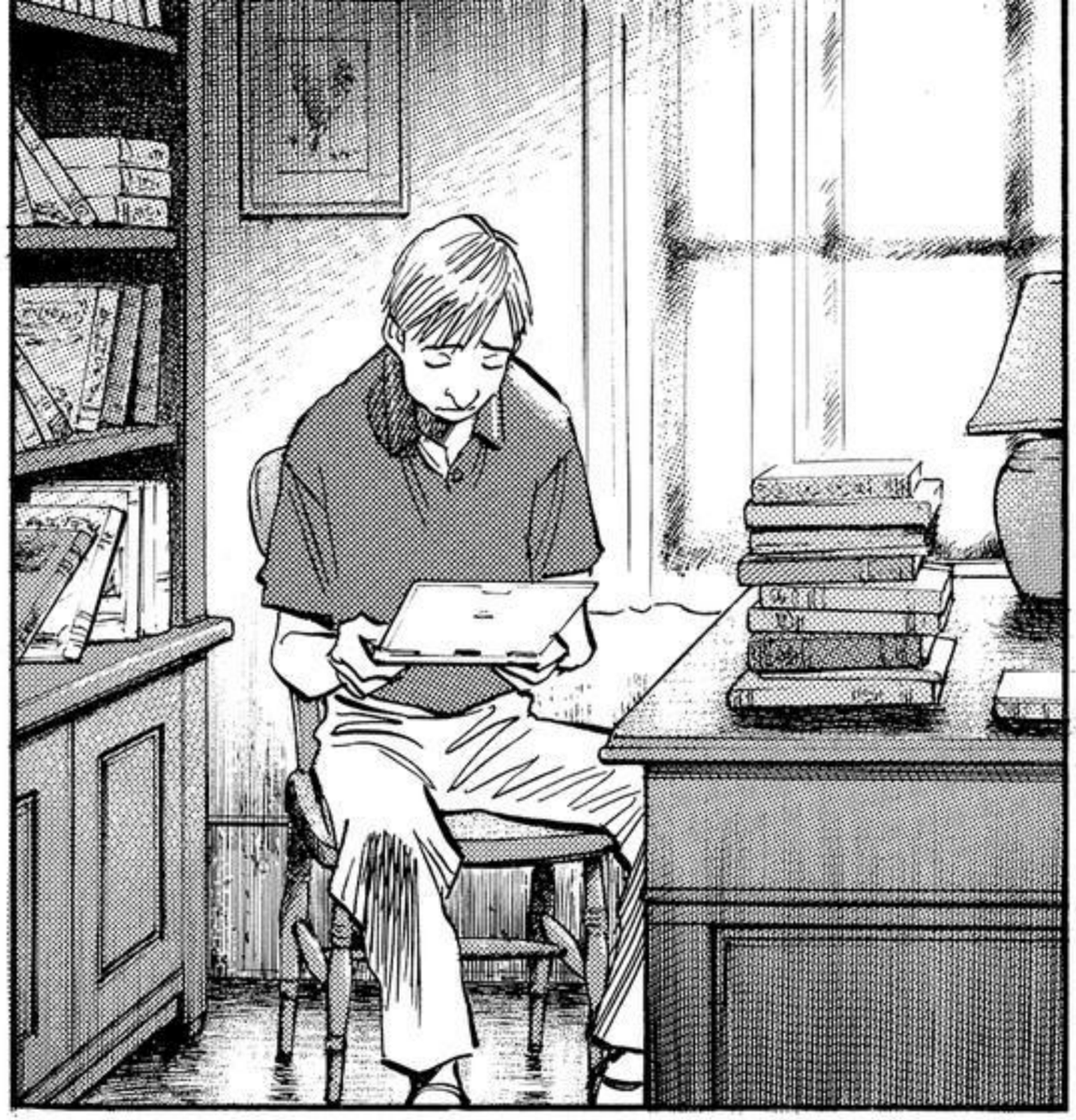
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR ARM...?

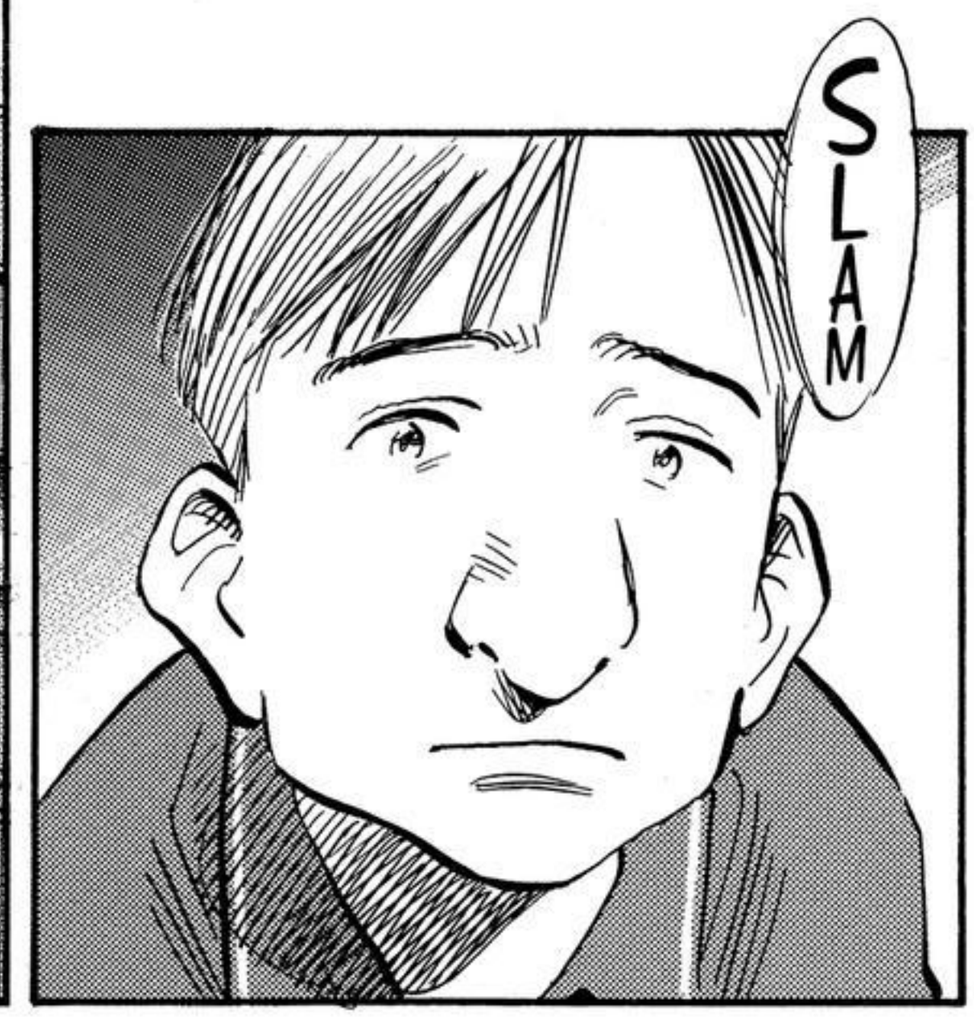

...


BUT HEY, THERE'S NOTHING TO KEEP US FROM KILLING THEM.
THEY CAN'T KILL US HUMANS...

YOU NEED TO CREATE A WORLD WITHOUT ROBOTS...
STUDY HARD, OKAY...?

DON'T WORRY 'BOUT IT. JUST KEEP STUDYIN'.




SLAM

I'M SIMPLY QUESTIONING WHETHER WE SHOULD GET SO EMOTIONAL OVER THE DEATH OF A ROBOT JUDGE!!
LET ME BE PERFECTLY CLEAR ABOUT THIS.

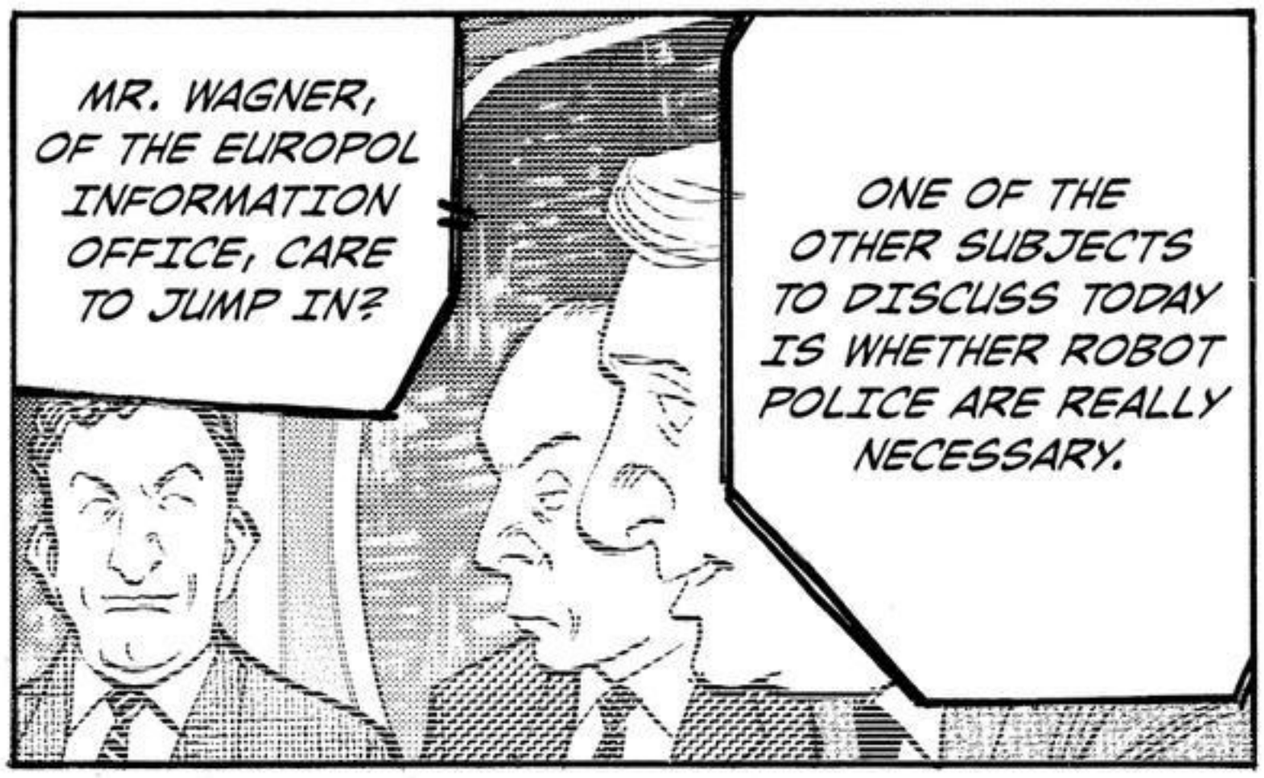
JUDGE NEUMAN DELIVERED VERDICTS ON GROUNDBREAKING ISSUES THAT EVEN HUMAN JUDGES WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HANDLE...
WELL, I FRANKLY DON'T THINK WE'RE GETTING OVERLY EMOTIONAL ABOUT IT AT ALL...

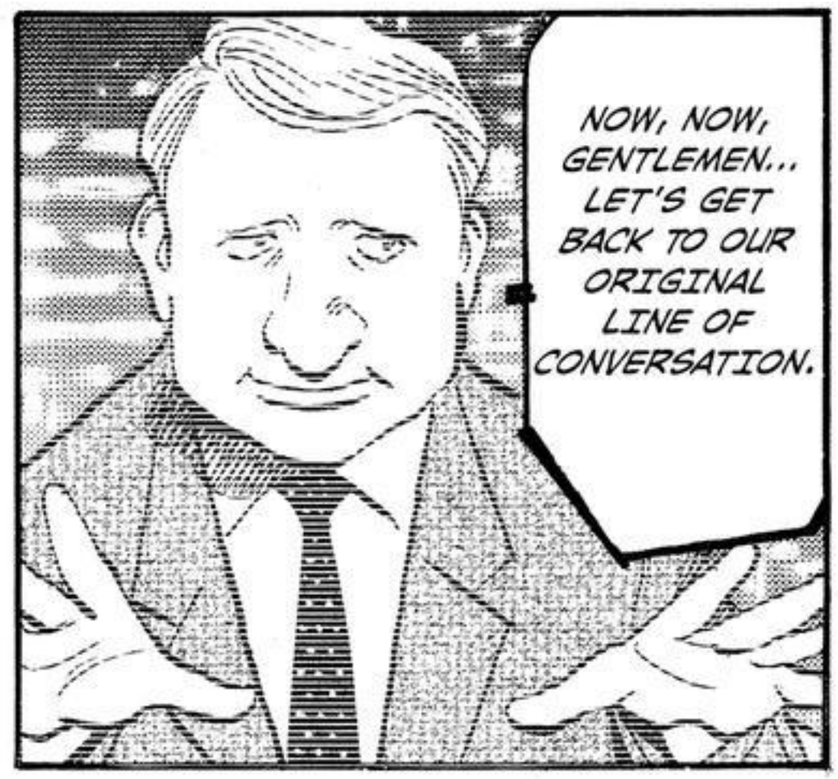
YES, I'D HAVE TO AGREE WITH THAT...
GROUNDBREAKING YOU SAY? LOOK, THE ONLY THING EXTRAORDINARY WAS THAT HE MADE DECISIONS A HUMAN COULDN'T HAVE MADE SIMPLY BECAUSE HE WAS A ROBOT DEVOID OF HUMAN EMOTION.

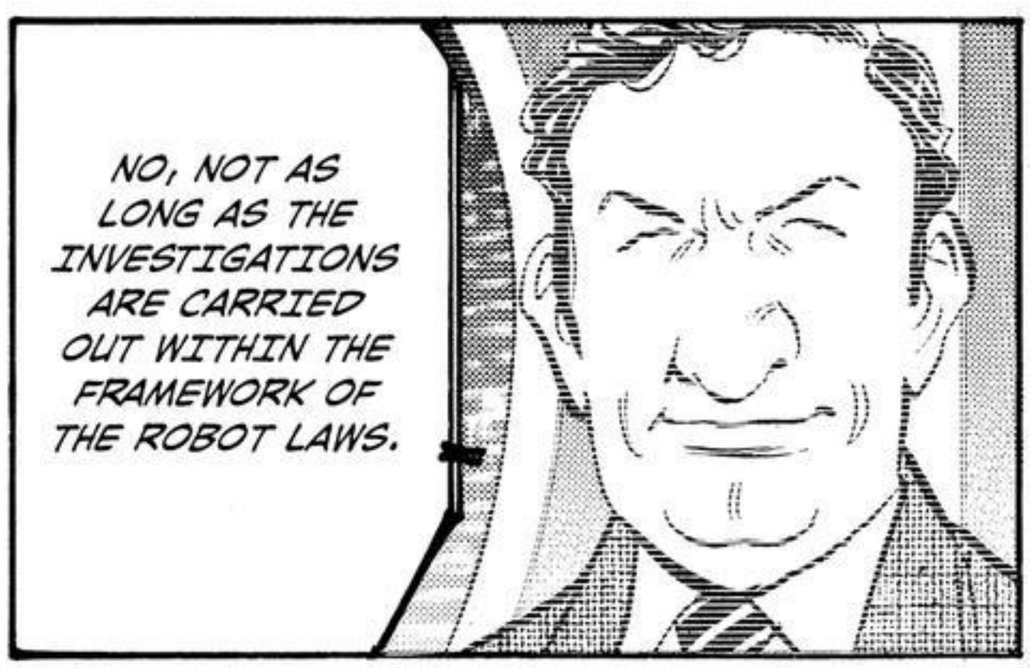
DO YOU THINK THEY KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT WHAT IT IS TO BE HUMAN?!!

HAH! THERE'S NO WAY I'D WANT ANY ROBOT TO CONSIDER EXTENUATING CIRCUM-STANCES.

THAT STATEMENT SMACKS OF DISCRIMI-NATION!







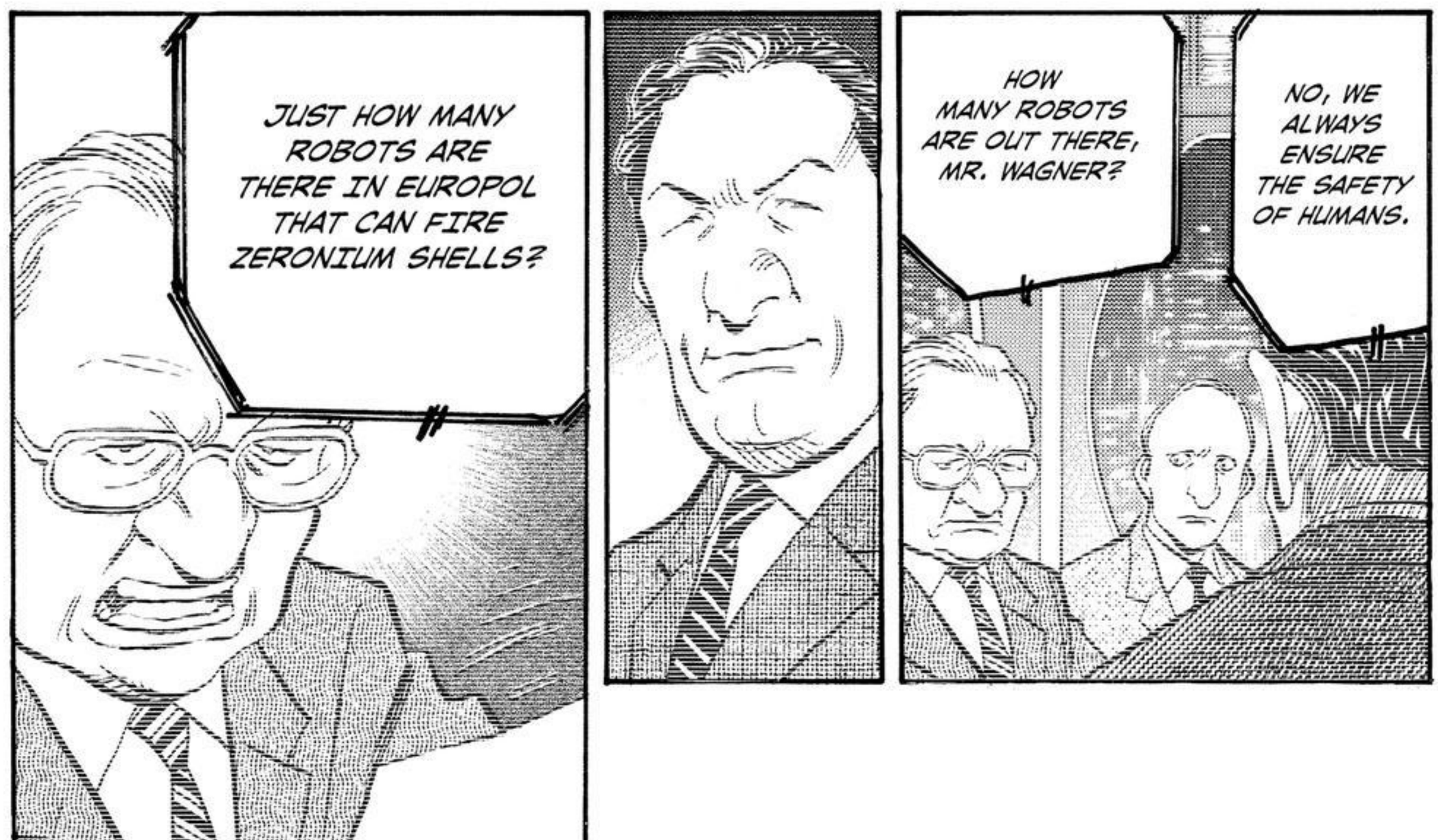
...

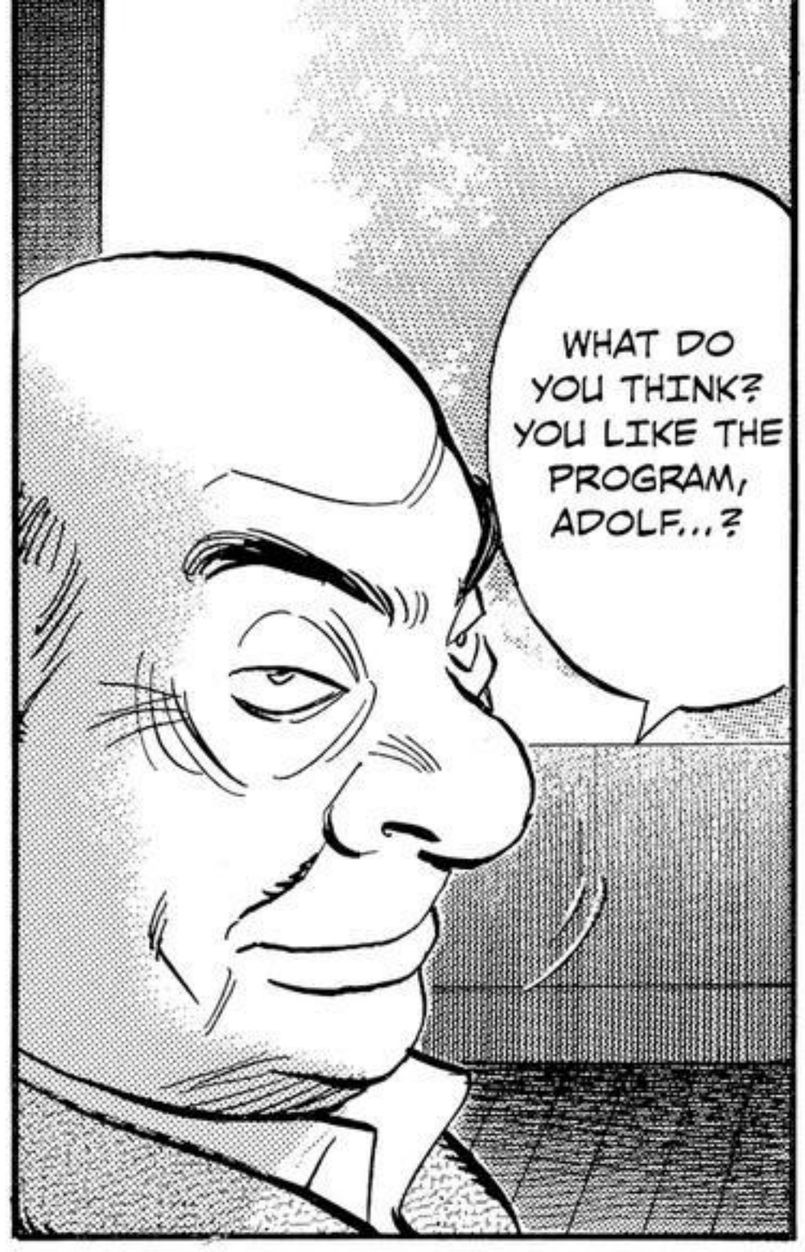
HMMM...
WELL, I UNDERSTAND THAT A SPECIAL KIND OF SHELL WAS USED RECENTLY IN THE ARREST OF A GROUP OF ARMED ROBBERY SUSPECTS.

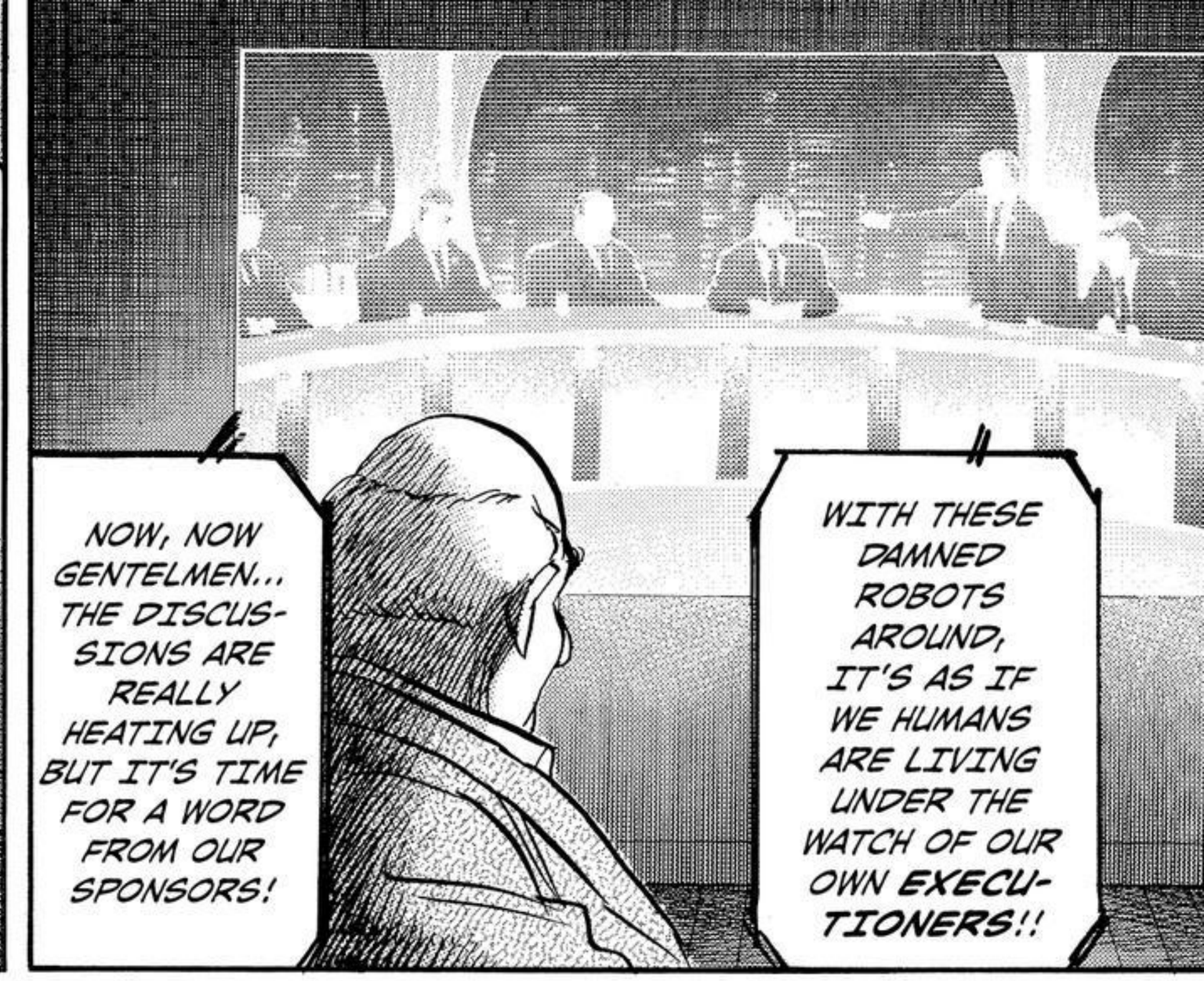
A WEAPON THAT CAN ONLY BE USED BY A ROBOT, CORRECT?
A ZERO-NIUM SHELL, WAS IT NOT?

BUT MISTAKES ARE SOMETIMES MADE, YES?!
ANY USE OF ZERONIUM SHELLS REQUIRES PERMISSION FROM HEADQUARTERS, AND WE ALWAYS MAKE SURE THAT HUMAN LIVES ARE PROTECTED.

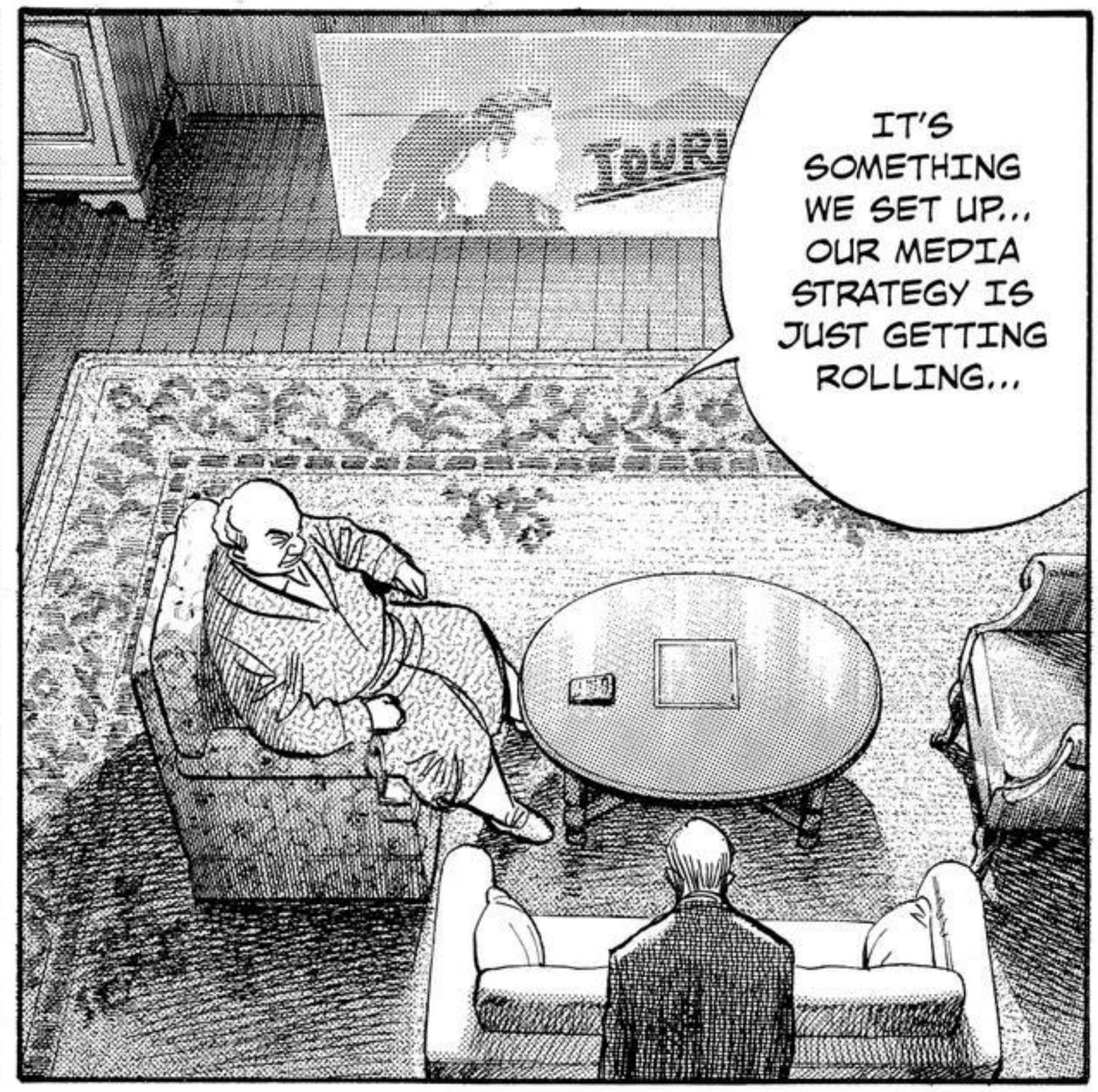
THAT IS CORRECT ...
IF, BY CHANCE, THIS WEAPON WERE TO BE USED ON A HUMAN, IT WOULD BLOW HIM TO PIECES.


JUST HOW MANY ROBOTS ARE THERE IN EUROPOL THAT CAN FIRE ZERONIUM SHELLS?
HOW MANY ROBOTS ARE OUT THERE, MR. WAGNER?
NO, WE ALWAYS ENSURE THE SAFETY OF HUMANS.


WHAT DO YOU THINK? YOU LIKE THE PROGRAM, ADOLF...?


NOW, NOW GENTELMEN... THE DISCUSSIONS ARE REALLY HEATING UP, BUT IT'S TIME FOR A WORD FROM OUR SPONSORS!
WITH THESE DAMNED ROBOTS AROUND, IT'S AS IF WE HUMANS ARE LIVING UNDER THE WATCH OF OUR OWN EXECUTIONERS!!

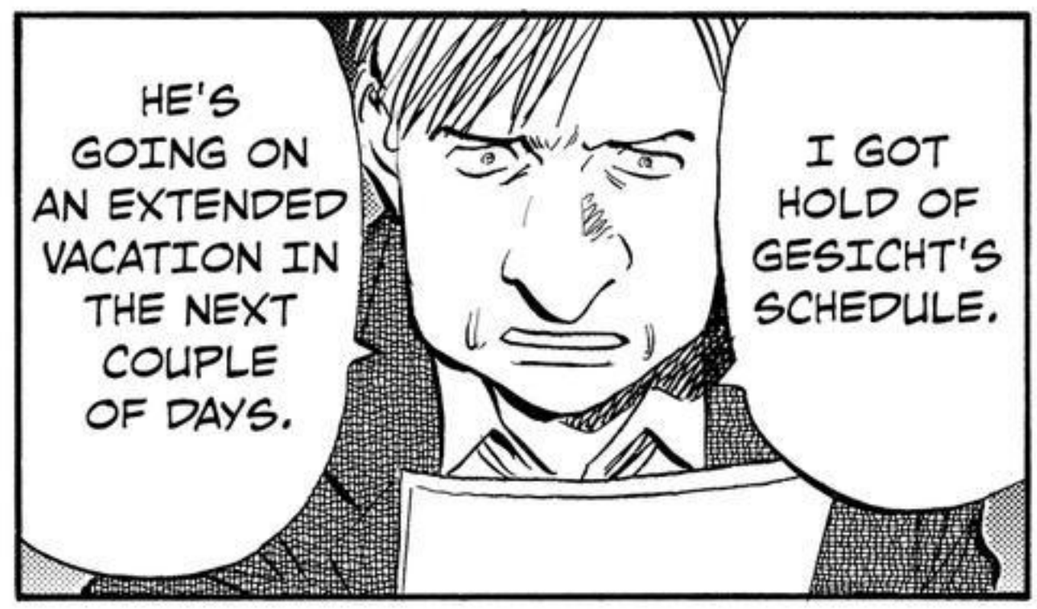
I'M SURE IT'LL TAKE SOME TIME...


IT'S SOMETHING WE SET UP... OUR MEDIA STRATEGY IS JUST GETTING ROLLING...

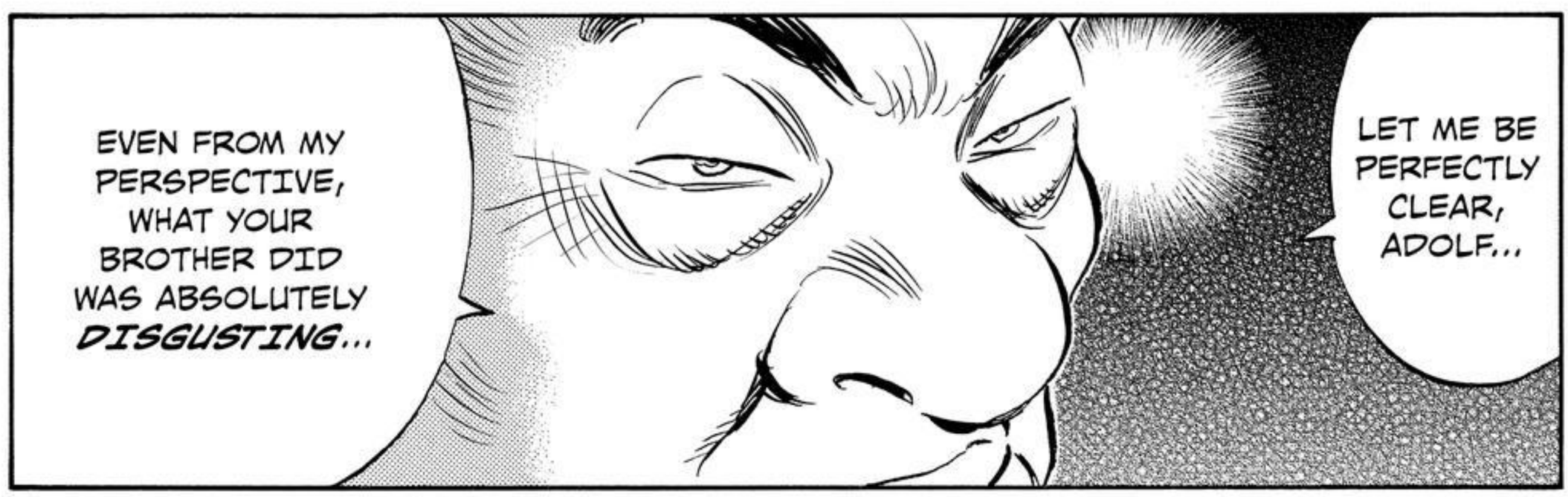
?
BUT I DON'T HAVE A LOT OF TIME.

AS LONG AS INSPECTOR GESICHT IS RUINED IN THE END...
AND WE HAVE TIME...

B-BUT...
RELAX, MY FRIEND. ANY WRONG MOVES COULD EXPOSE YOUR BROTHER'S TRUE IDENTITY...


HE'S GOING ON AN EXTENDED VACATION IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS.
I GOT HOLD OF GESICHT'S SCHEDULE.

THAT DOESN'T MATTER, ADOLF. NO MATTER WHERE HE RUNS, OUR ORGANIZATION WILL ALWAYS BE ON HIS HEELS...


EVEN FROM MY PERSPECTIVE, WHAT YOUR BROTHER DID WAS ABSOLUTELY *DISGUSTING*...
LET ME BE PERFECTLY CLEAR, ADOLF...

AND IF THE TRUTH LEAKS OUT TO THE PUBLIC, IT'LL DO MORE THAN SET BACK OUR ANTI-ROBOT CAMPAIGN. IT'LL TURN SOCIETY AGAINST US!

YOU CALLED, SIR?

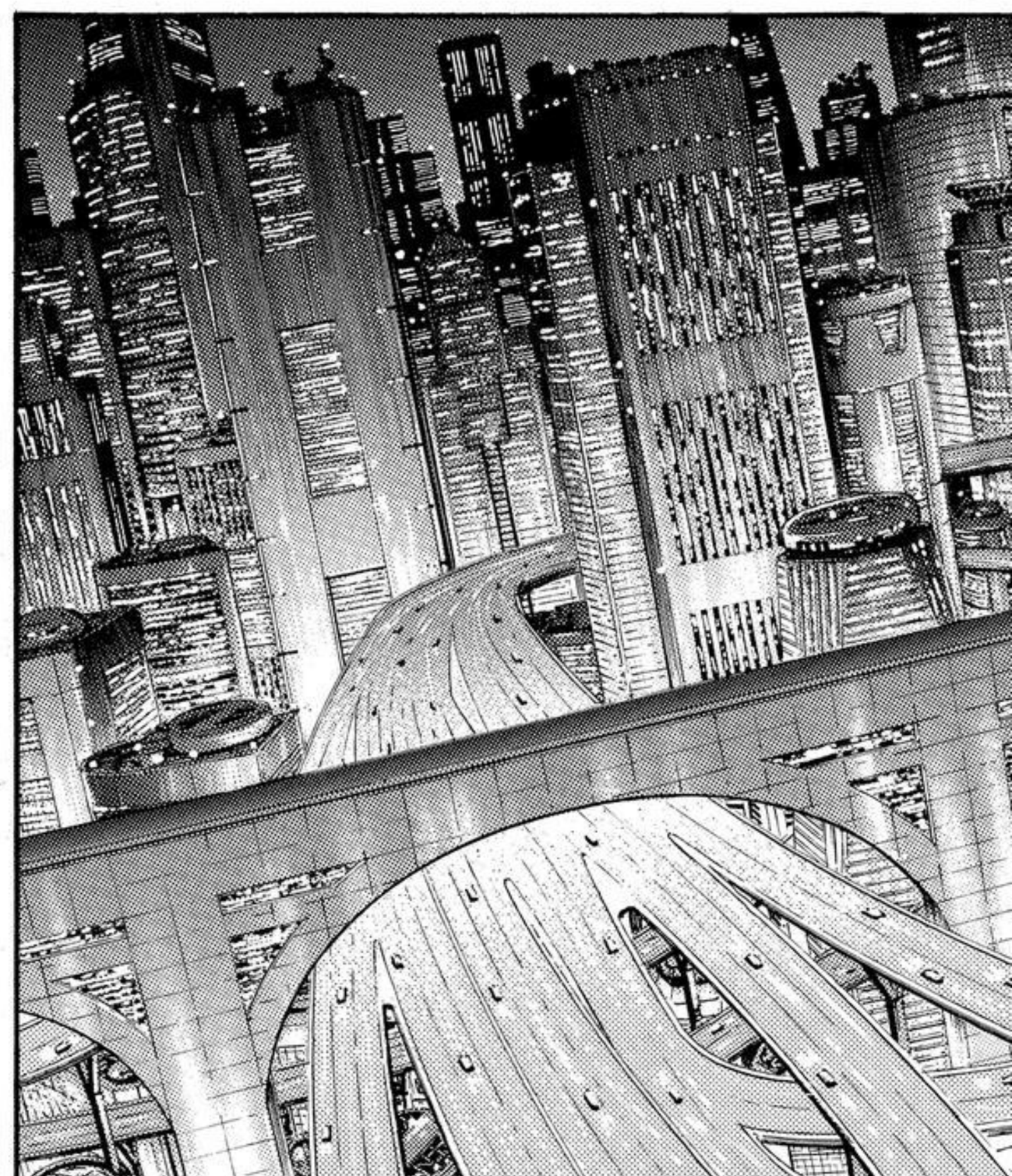
BEEP

SLAM

...YOU HAVE MY PERMISSION TO KILL HIM...

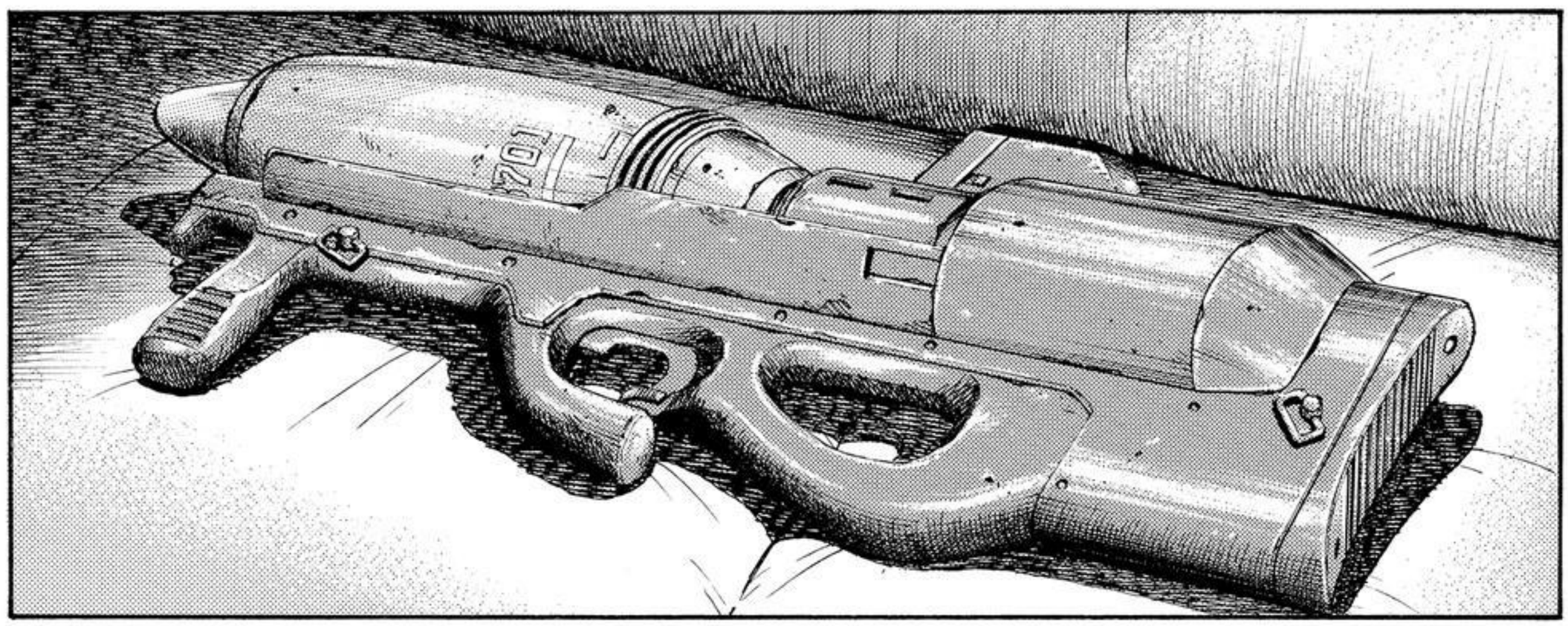
IF HE DOES ANYTHING FOOLISH...
KEEP AN EYE ON ADOLF...

SHALL I CONTINUE ON THE PRESENT ROUTE?
YEAH. FOLLOW THAT CAR IN FRONT OF US.

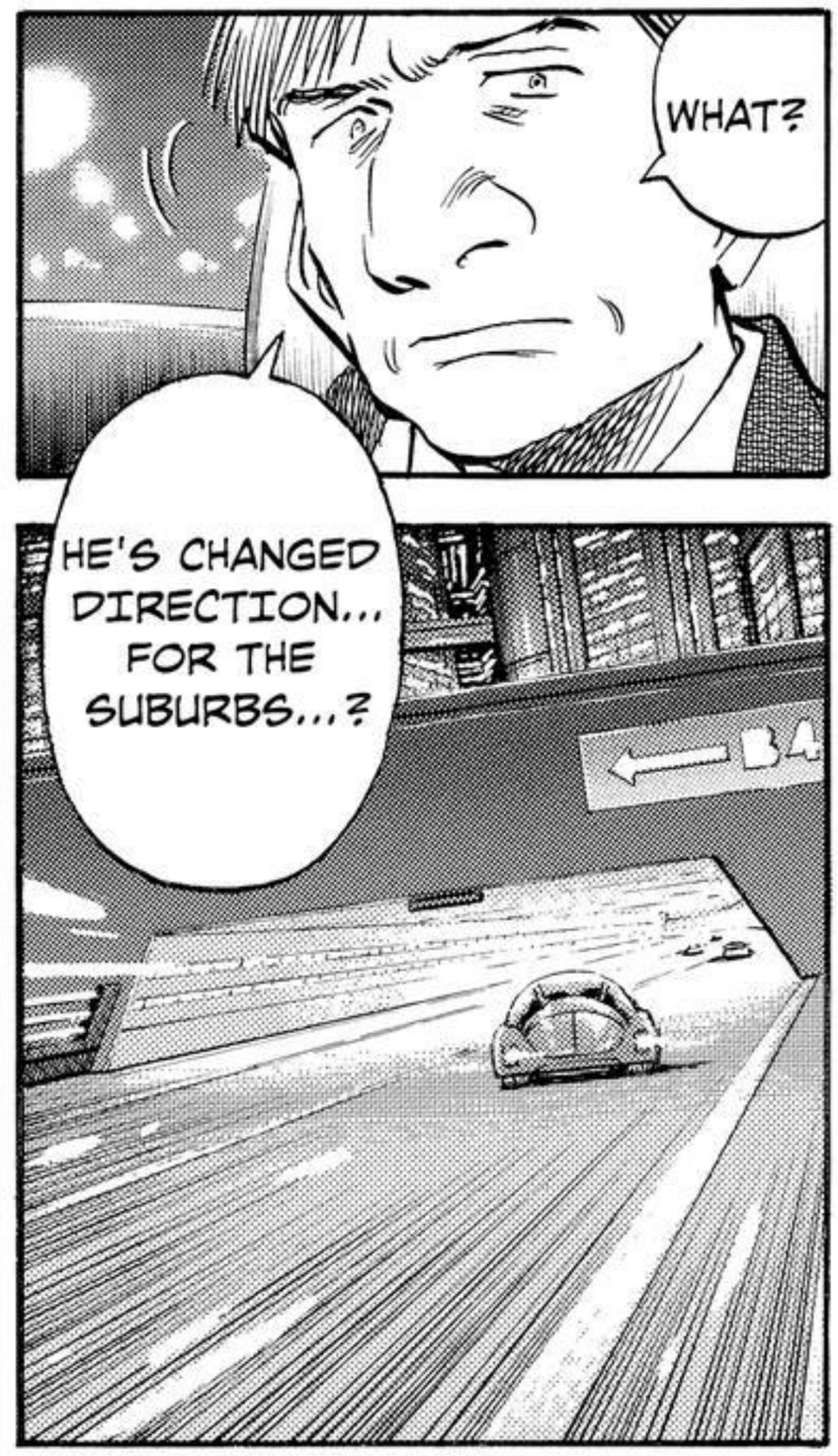


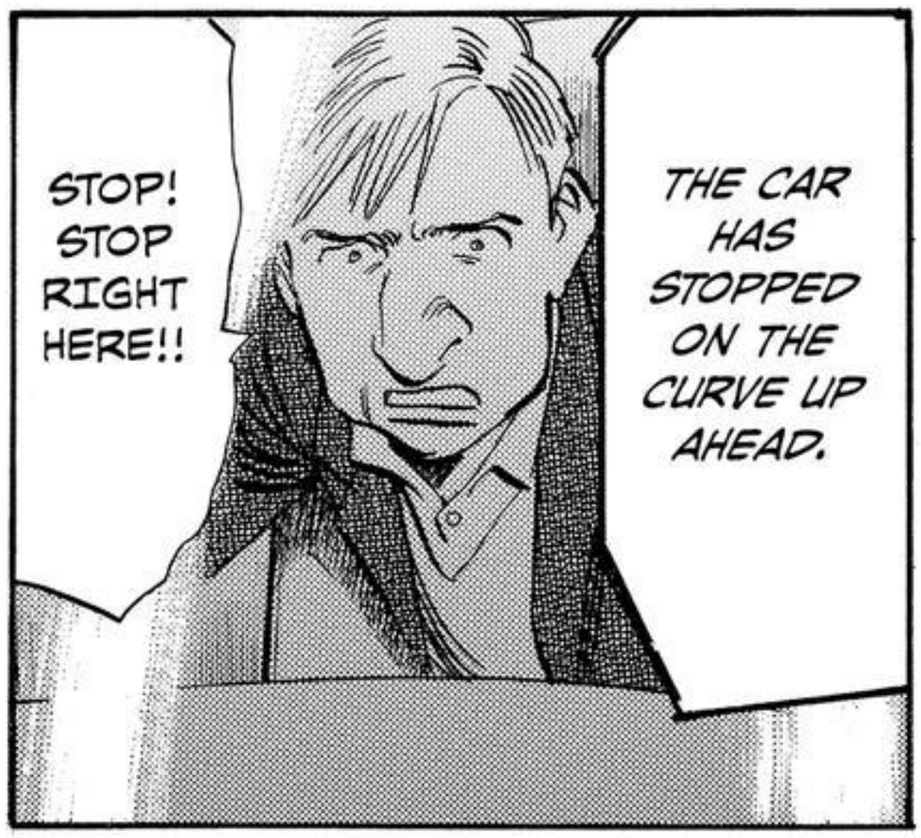
NO CHANCE TO USE THIS THING TODAY...

GESICHT'S SCHEDULED FOR HIS PERIODIC MAINTENANCE TODAY.



WONDER IF HE SAW ME TAILING HIM...?


WHAT?
HE'S CHANGED DIRECTION... FOR THE SUBURBS...?
B4

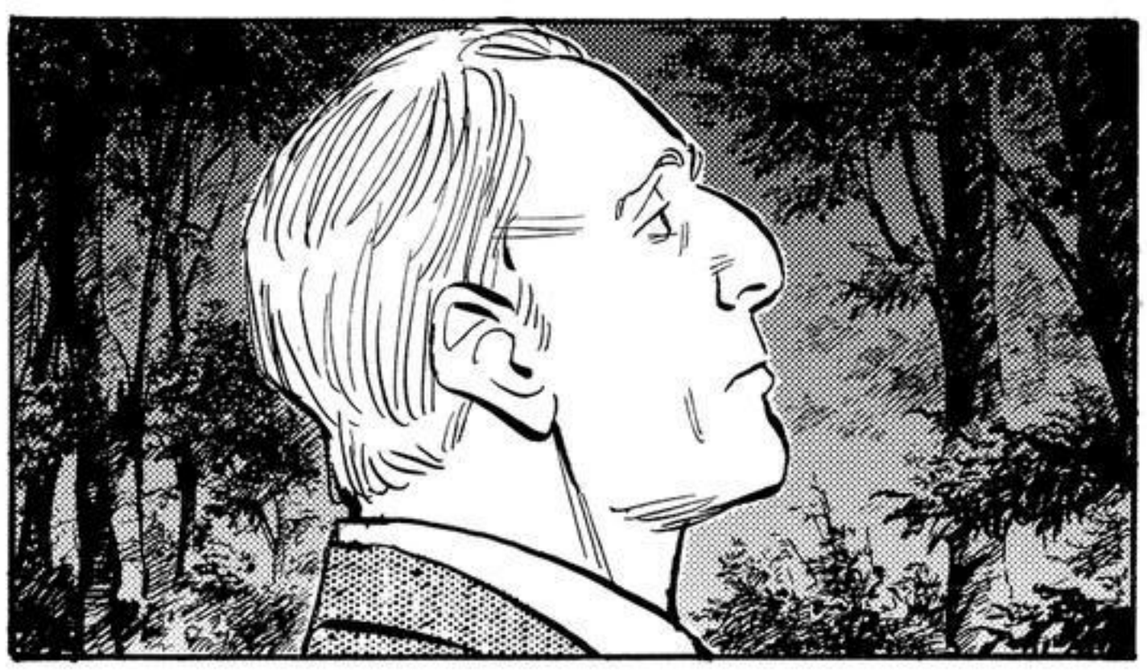

STOP! STOP RIGHT HERE!!

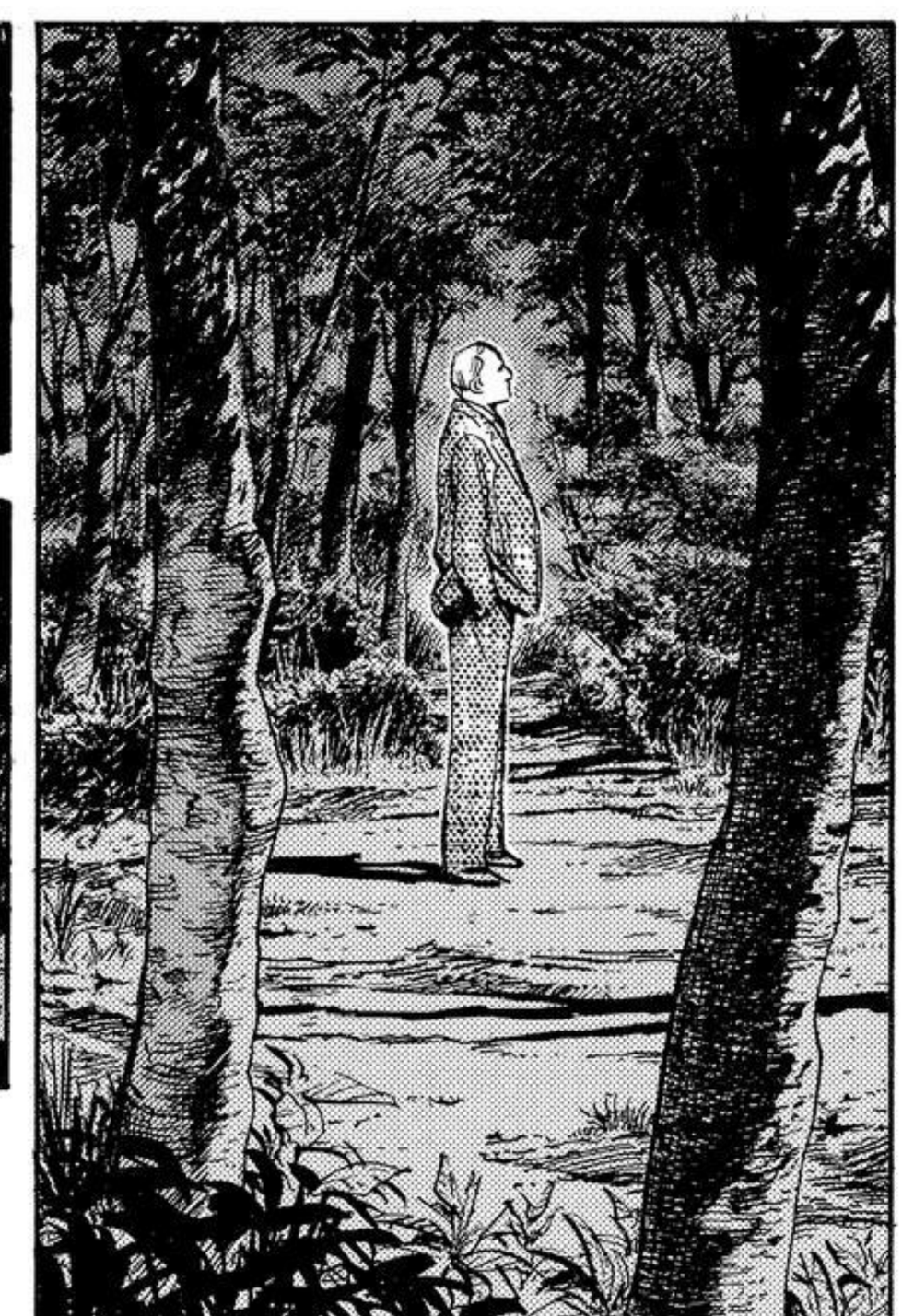
THE CAR HAS STOPPED ON THE CURVE UP AHEAD.

SHUF

THIS MAY BE MY CHANCE!
CHAK

WHAT THE HELL IS HE UP TO...?





FLASH

OKAY... THIS IS IT...!!

!!

AGGH!

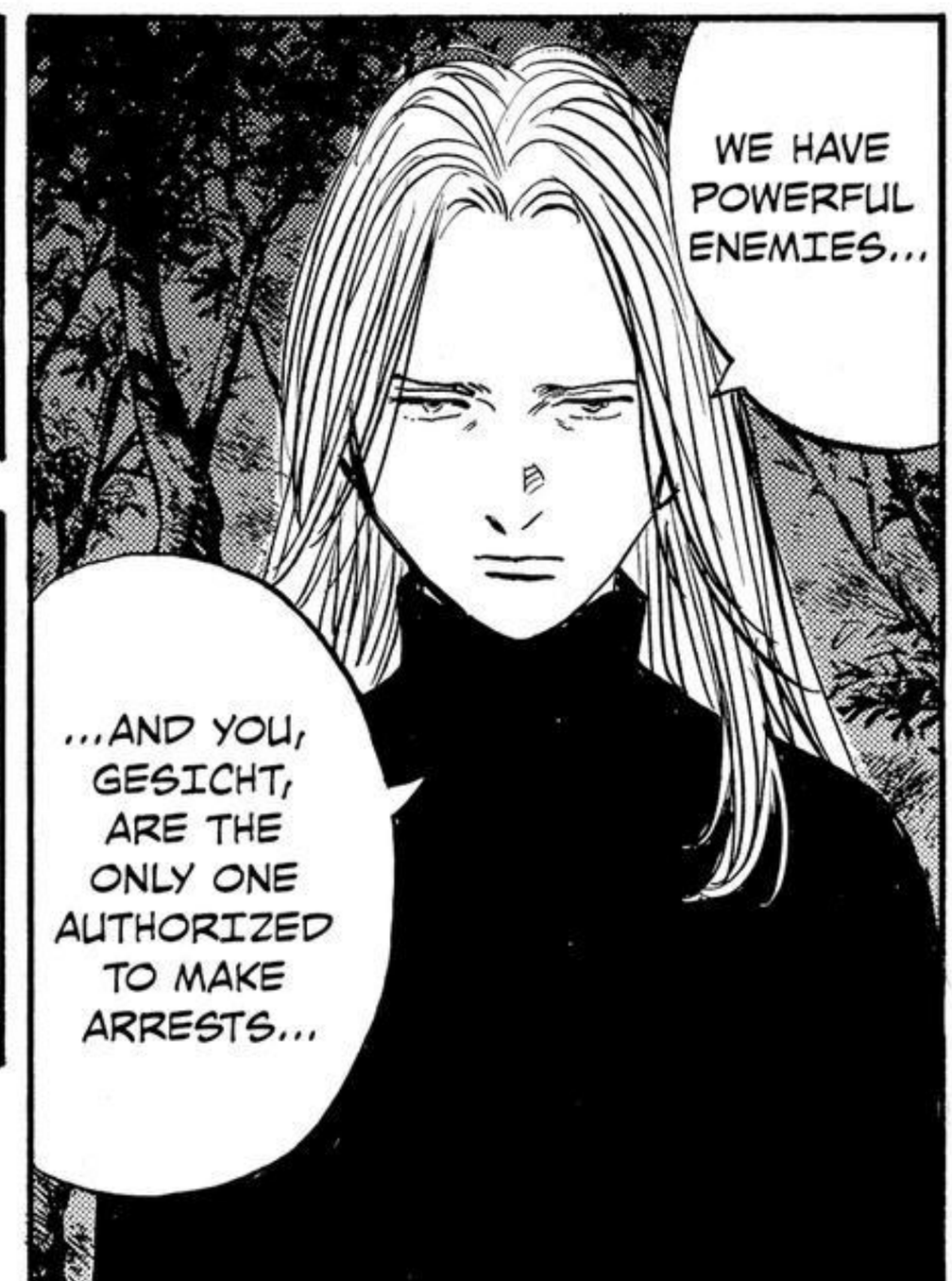
SO YOU'RE EPSILON?

YES. I APOLOGIZE FOR CALLING YOU ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE...

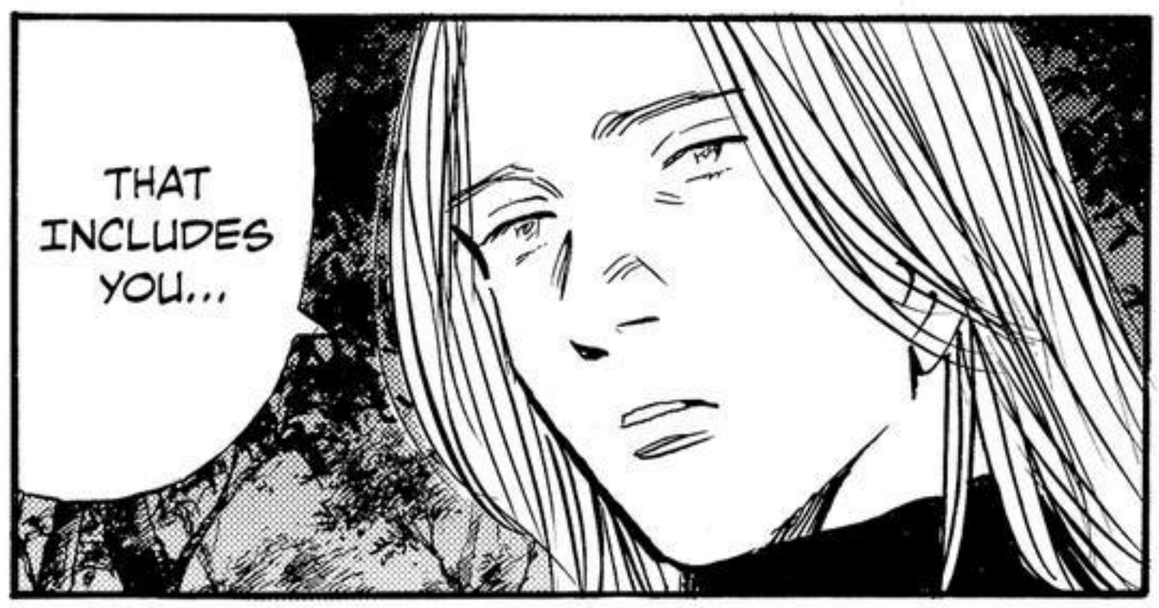
IT'S NOT THE SORT OF THING WHERE WE CAN DO A SIMPLE DATA TRANSFER...
NO PROBLEM ...

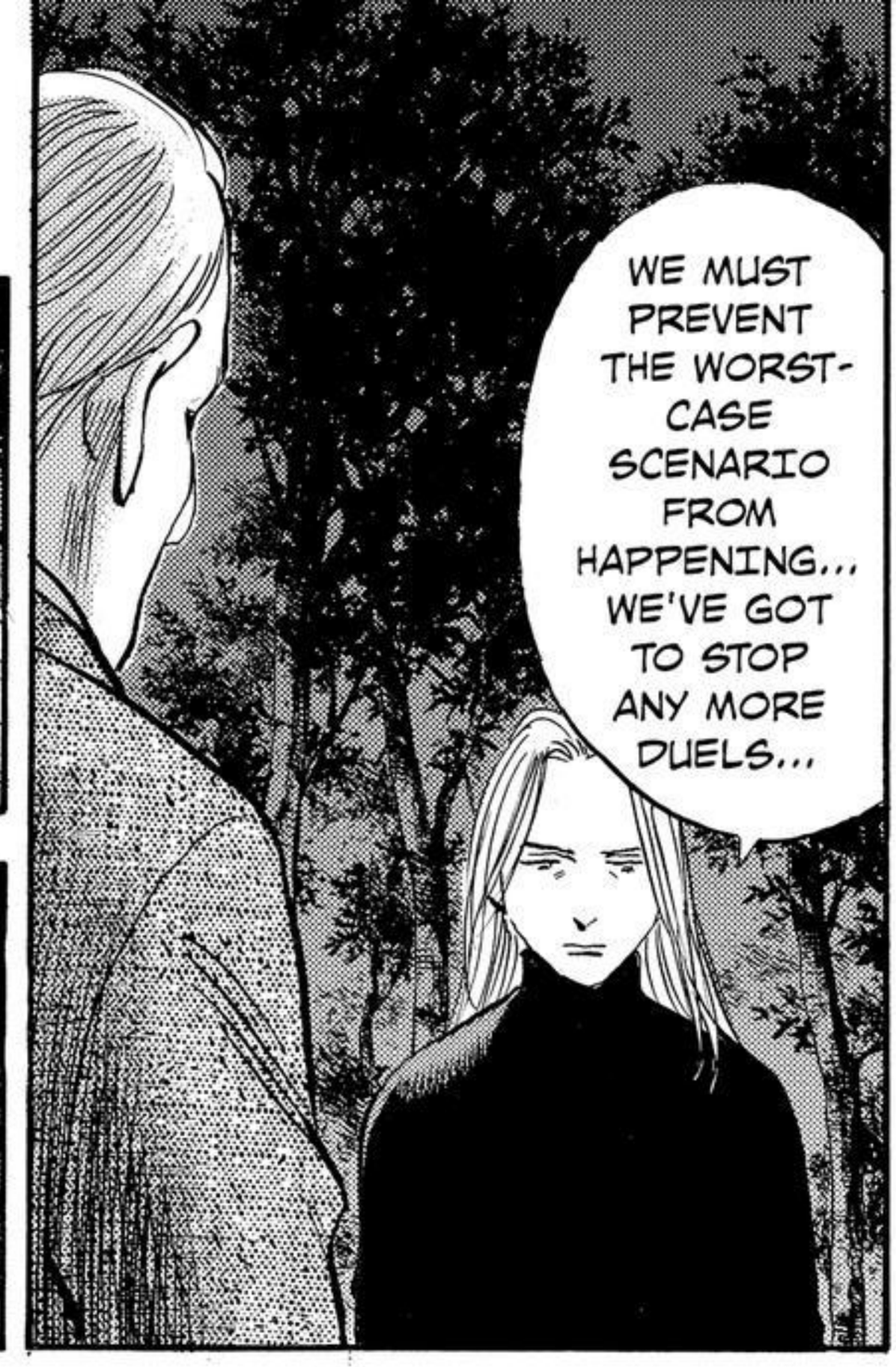
OF COURSE...
BUT DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I CONVEYED TO YOU?

I KNOW...

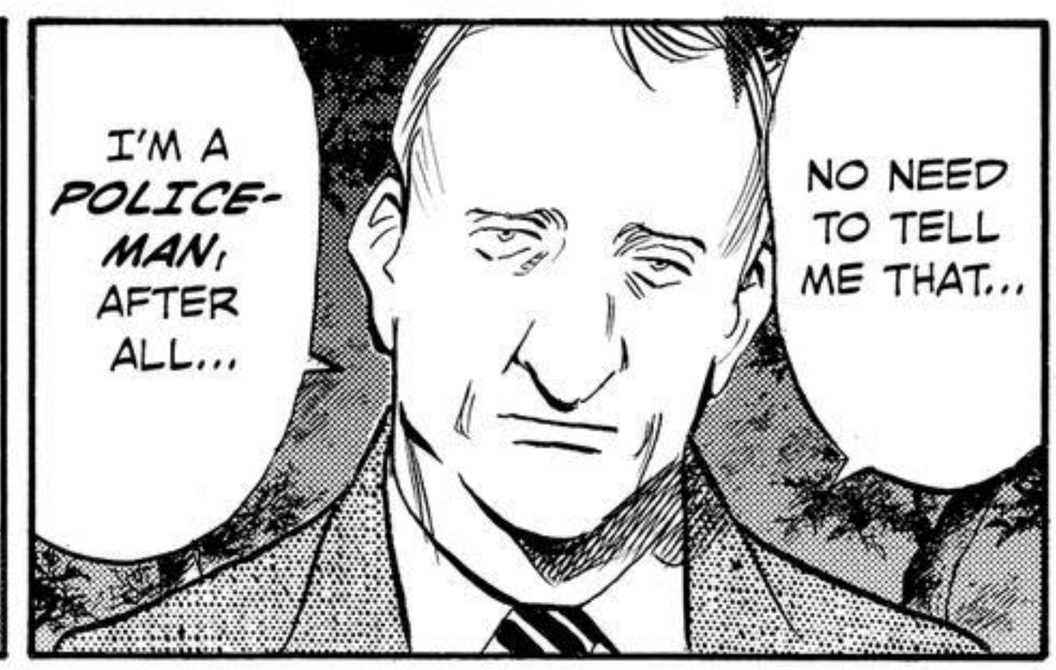

WE HAVE POWERFUL ENEMIES...
...AND YOU, GESICHT, ARE THE ONLY ONE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE ARRESTS...

YOU *MUST* STOP HERCULES...


THAT INCLUDES YOU...


WE MUST PREVENT THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO FROM HAPPENING... WE'VE GOT TO STOP ANY MORE DUELS...

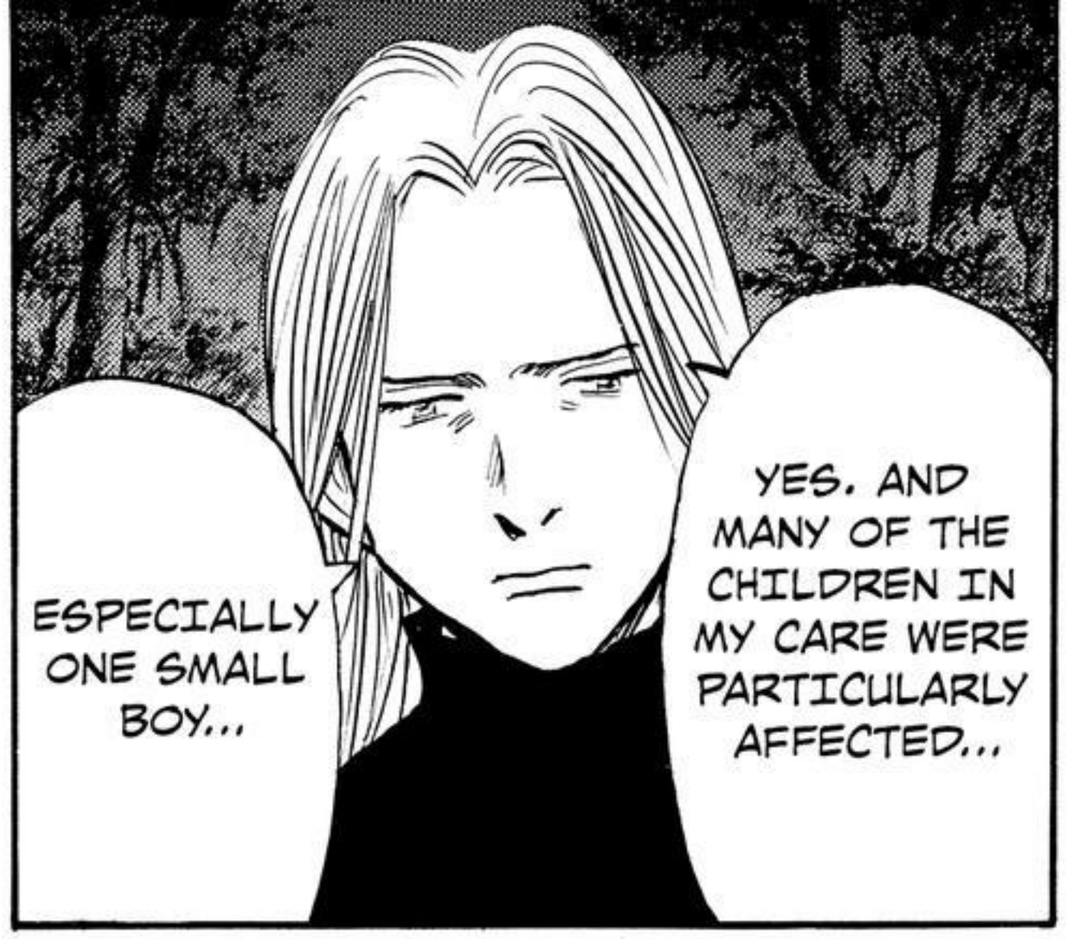
IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING, ANOTHER WAR WILL START...

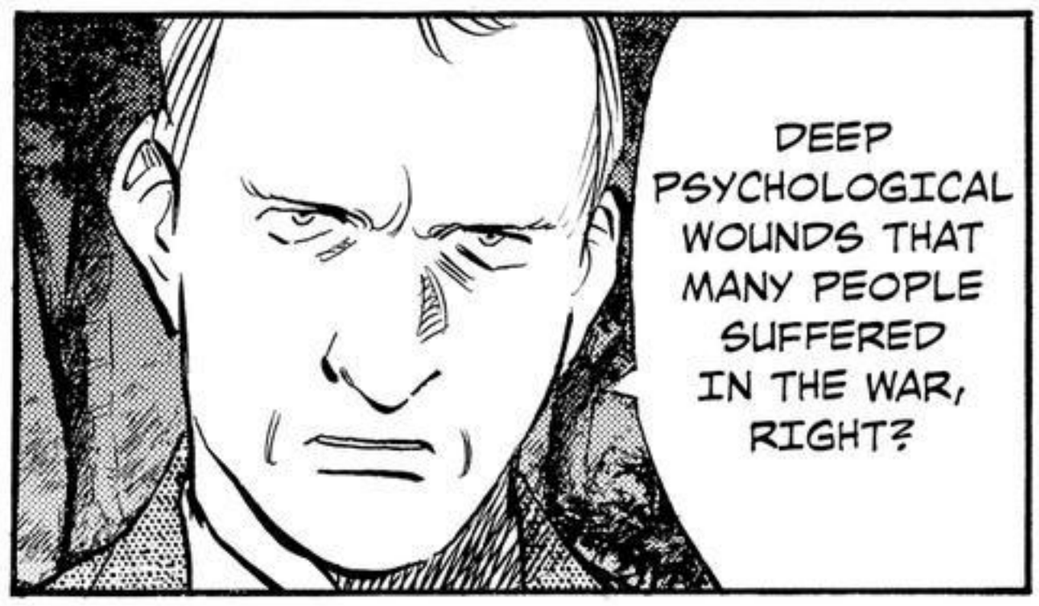

I'M A *POLICE-MAN*, AFTER ALL...
NO NEED TO TELL ME THAT...

ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH WHAT THEY CALL THE PERSIAN WAR SYNDROME?

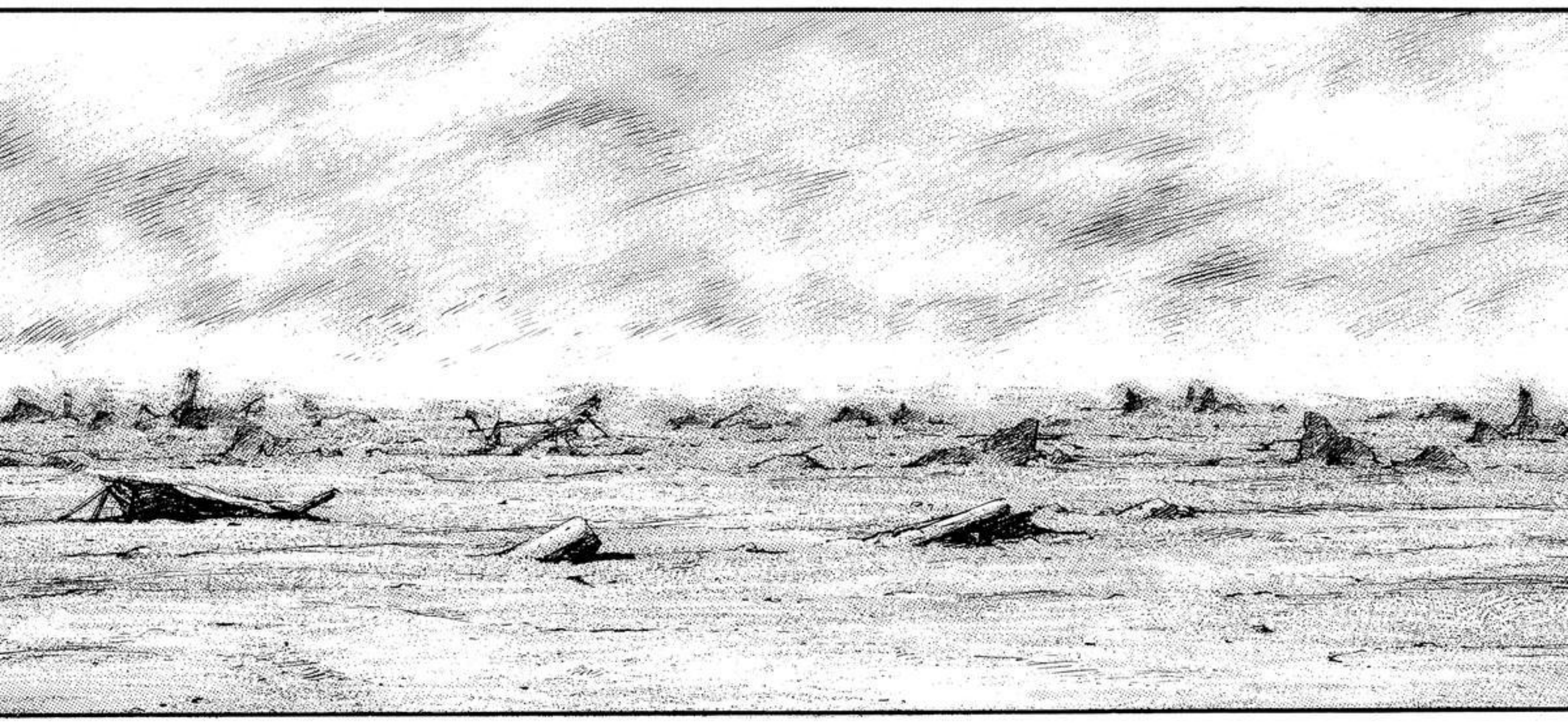
I AM THE GUARDIAN OF MANY CHILDREN NOW, AND I AM DETERMINED THAT THEY WILL NEVER EXPERIENCE WAR AGAIN...

AND WE CANNOT AFFORD ANY MORE WARS...

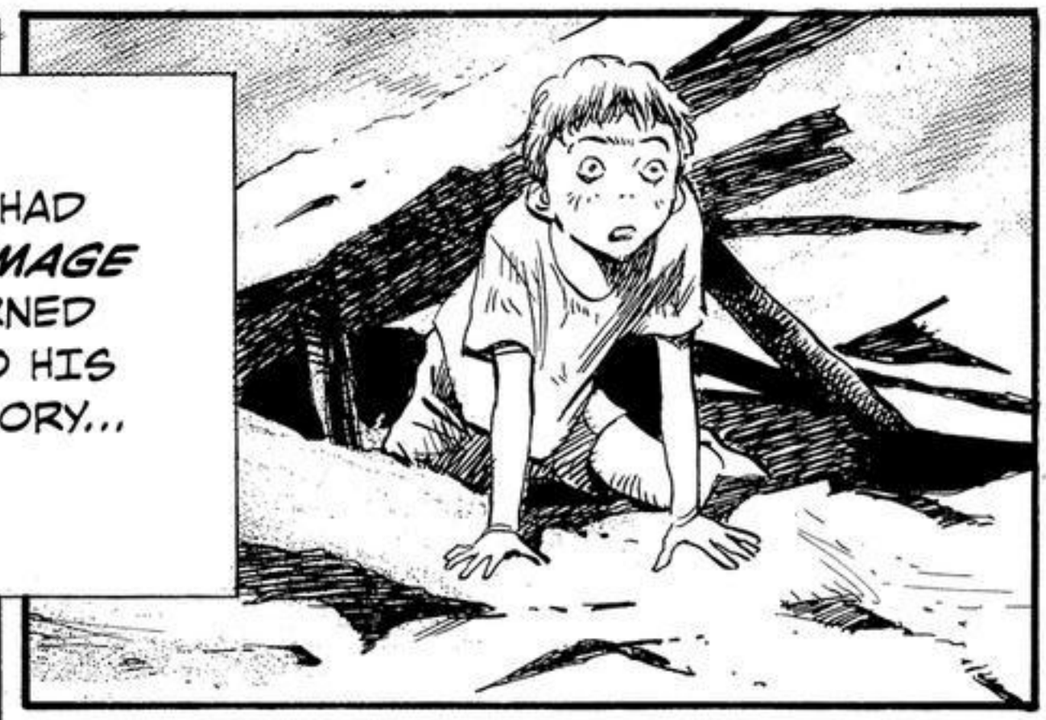

ESPECIALLY ONE SMALL BOY...
YES. AND MANY OF THE CHILDREN IN MY CARE WERE PARTICULARLY AFFECTED...


DEEP PSYCHOLOGICAL WOUNDS THAT MANY PEOPLE SUFFERED IN THE WAR, RIGHT?

OUT OF THE ENTIRE POPULATION, HE WAS THE ONLY SURVIVOR...
HIS ENTIRE VILLAGE WAS DESTROYED IN SECONDS...

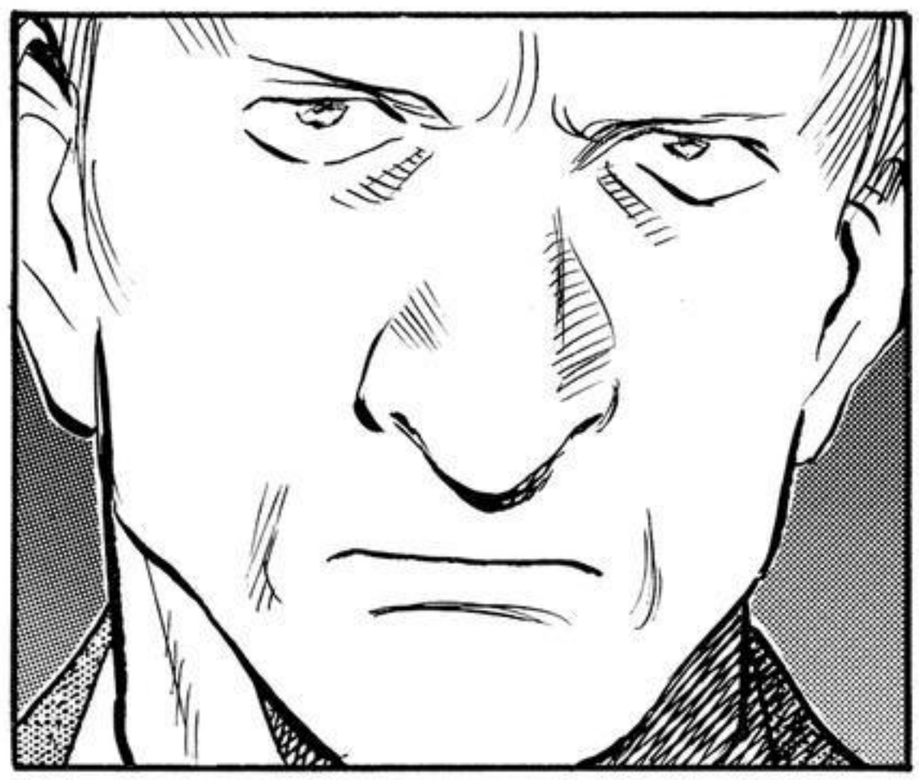


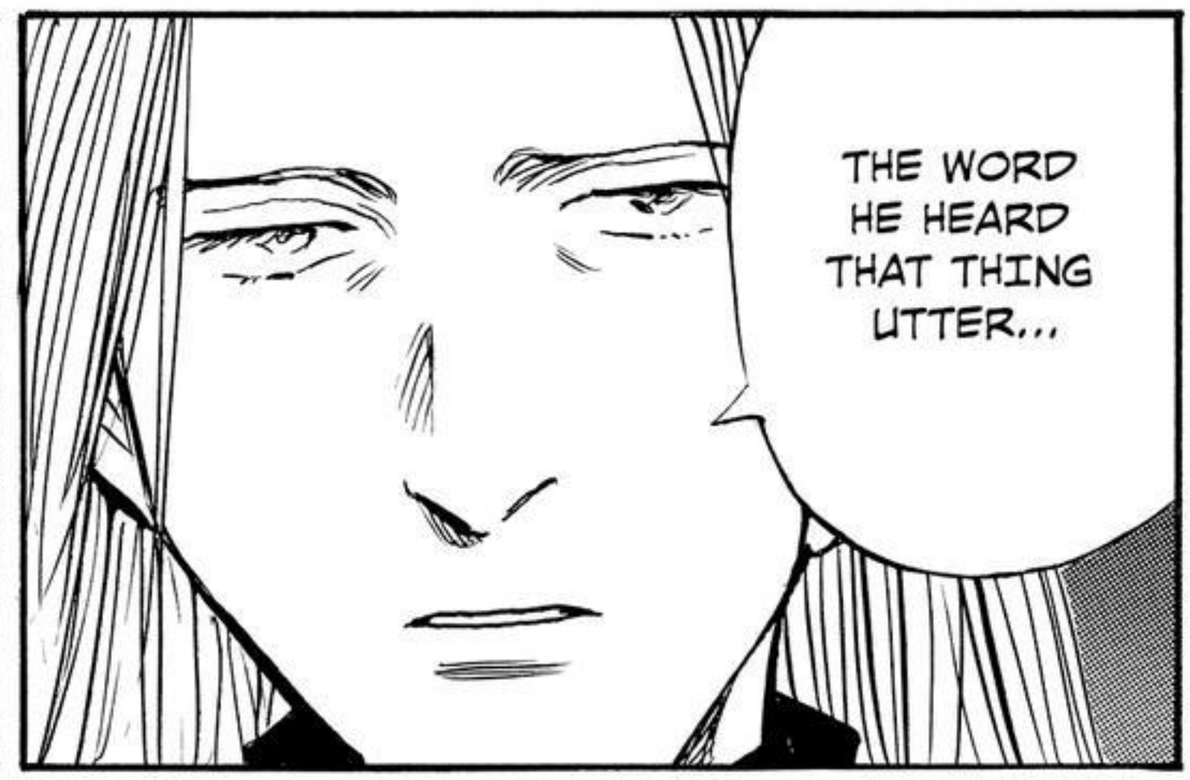
HE HAD AN *IMAGE* BURNED INTO HIS MEMORY...



OF SOME-THING *GIANT* MOVING TOWARD THE DESERT...

EVEN TODAY THIS BOY CAN SPEAK ONLY ONE WORD...




THE WORD HE HEARD THAT THING UTTER...

BORA...

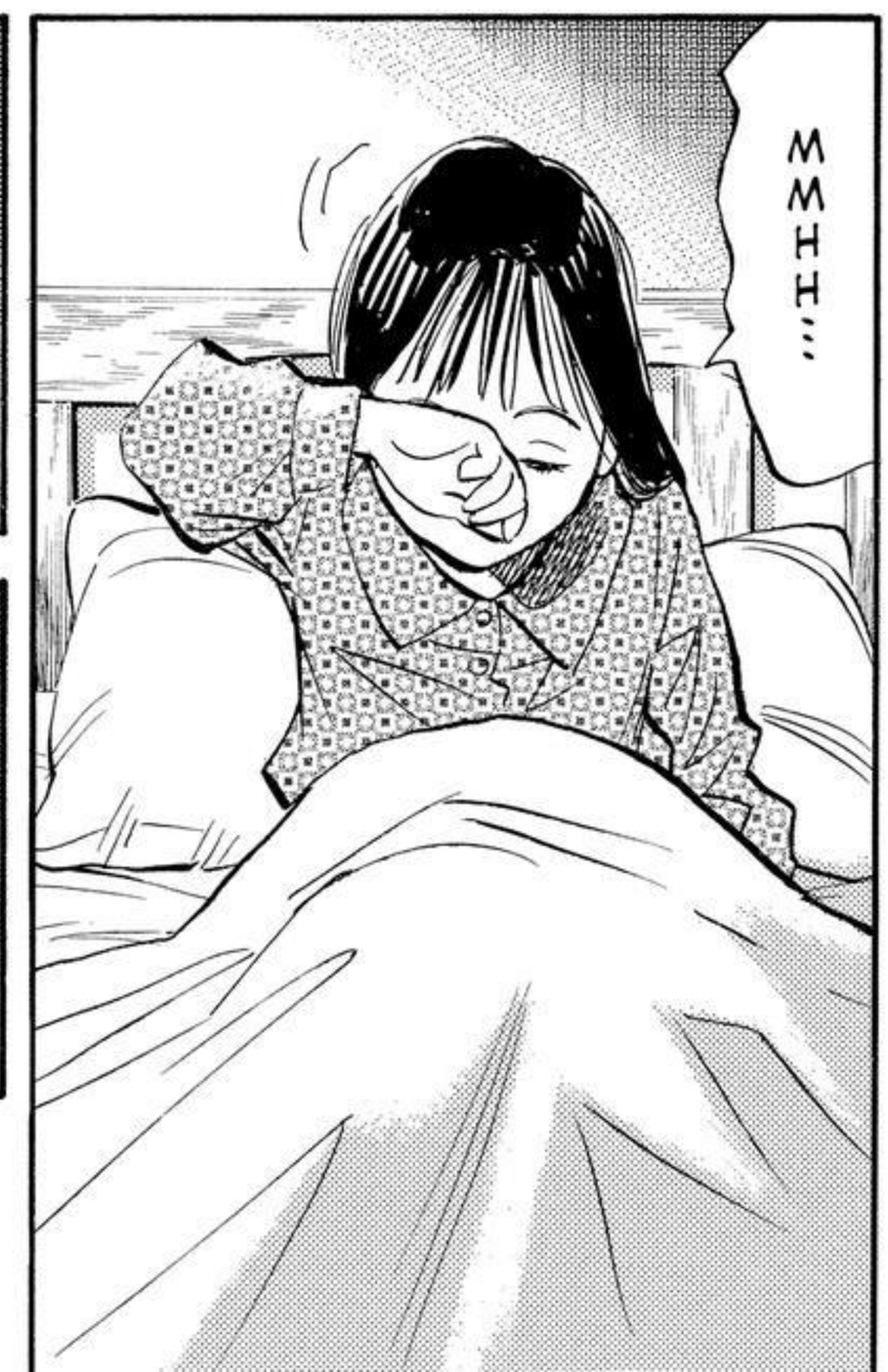
Act 21

URAN'S SEARCH

CHIRP CHIRP

CHIRP CHIRP

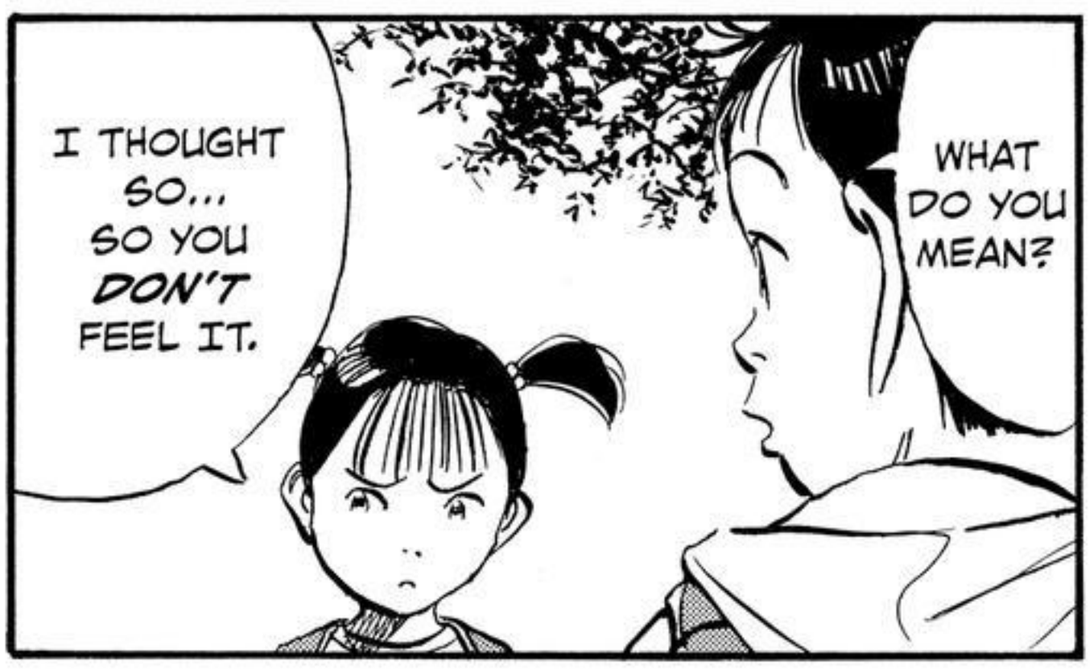
TOKYO CITY



A TEAR ...?
Act 21
URAN'S SEARCH

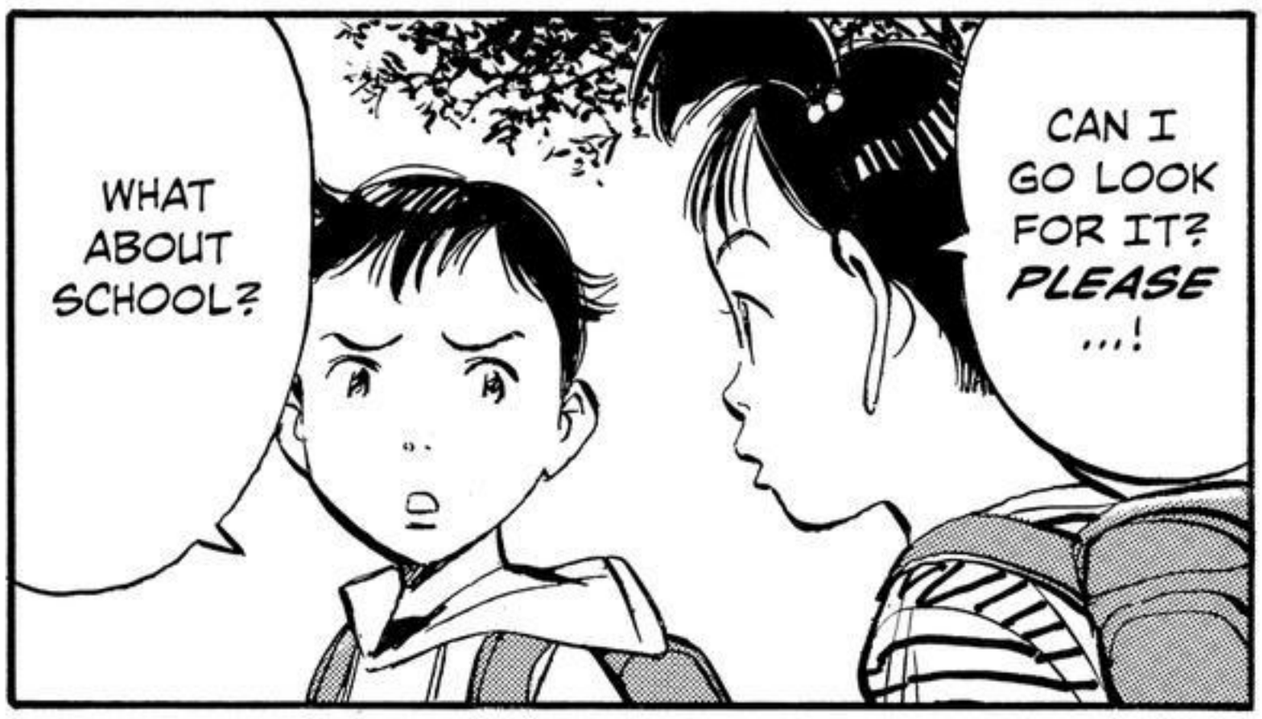
OH, I DUNNO...
IF YOU DON'T HURRY UP, WE'LL BE LATE FOR SCHOOL...

WHAT'S THE MATTER, URAN?


I THOUGHT SO... SO YOU *DON'T* FEEL IT.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

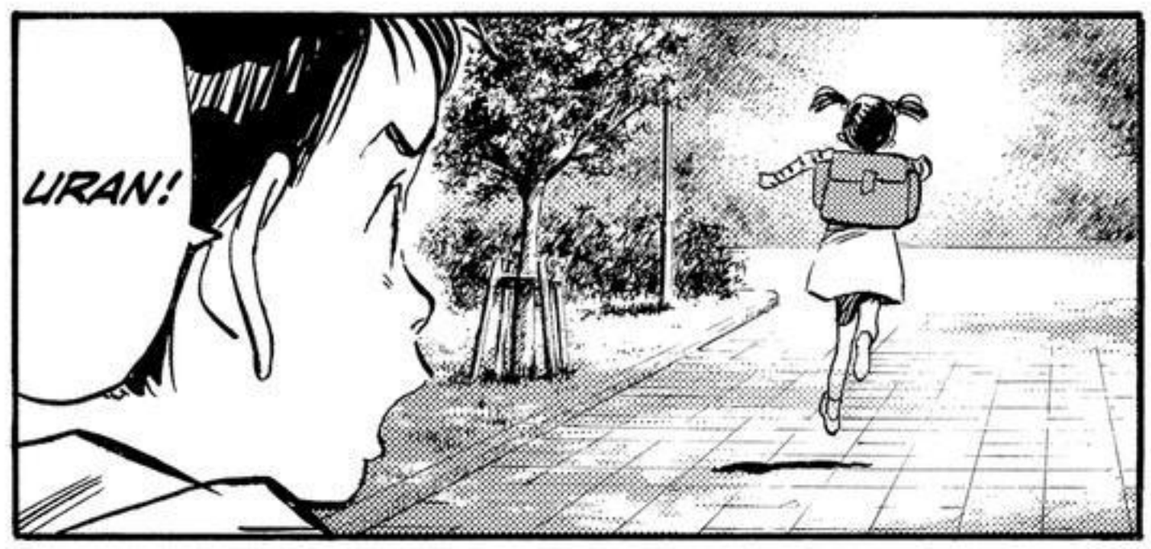
DIDN'T YOU FEEL ANYTHING, ATOM?

NOT AGAIN...

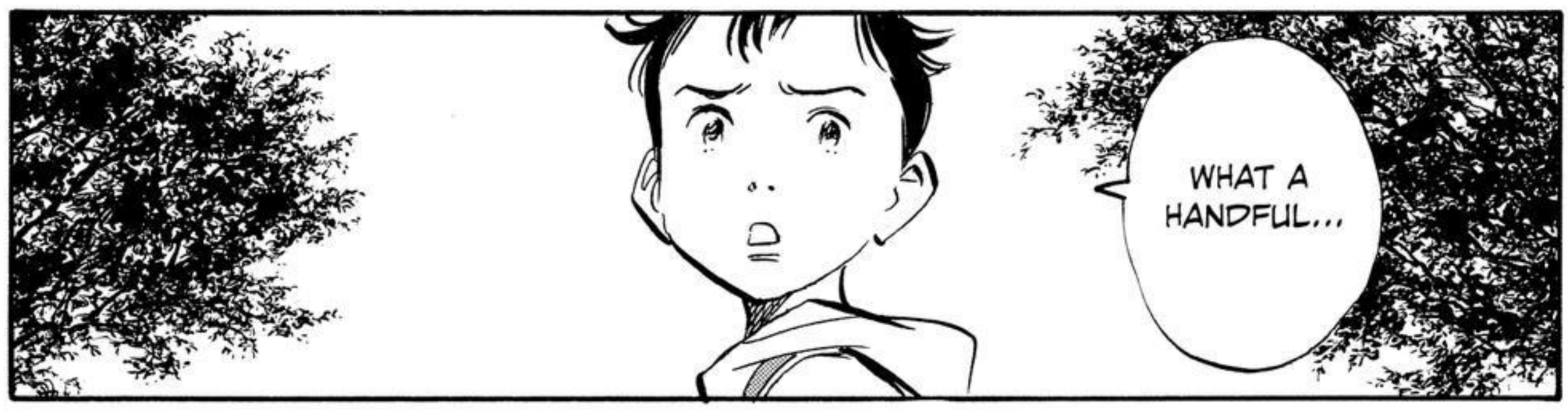

WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL?
CAN I GO LOOK FOR IT? *PLEASE* ...!

...LIKE A LITTLE ANIMAL THAT CAN'T FIND ITS WAY BACK HOME... IT'S SHAKING WITH FEAR...
IT'S SOME-THING...

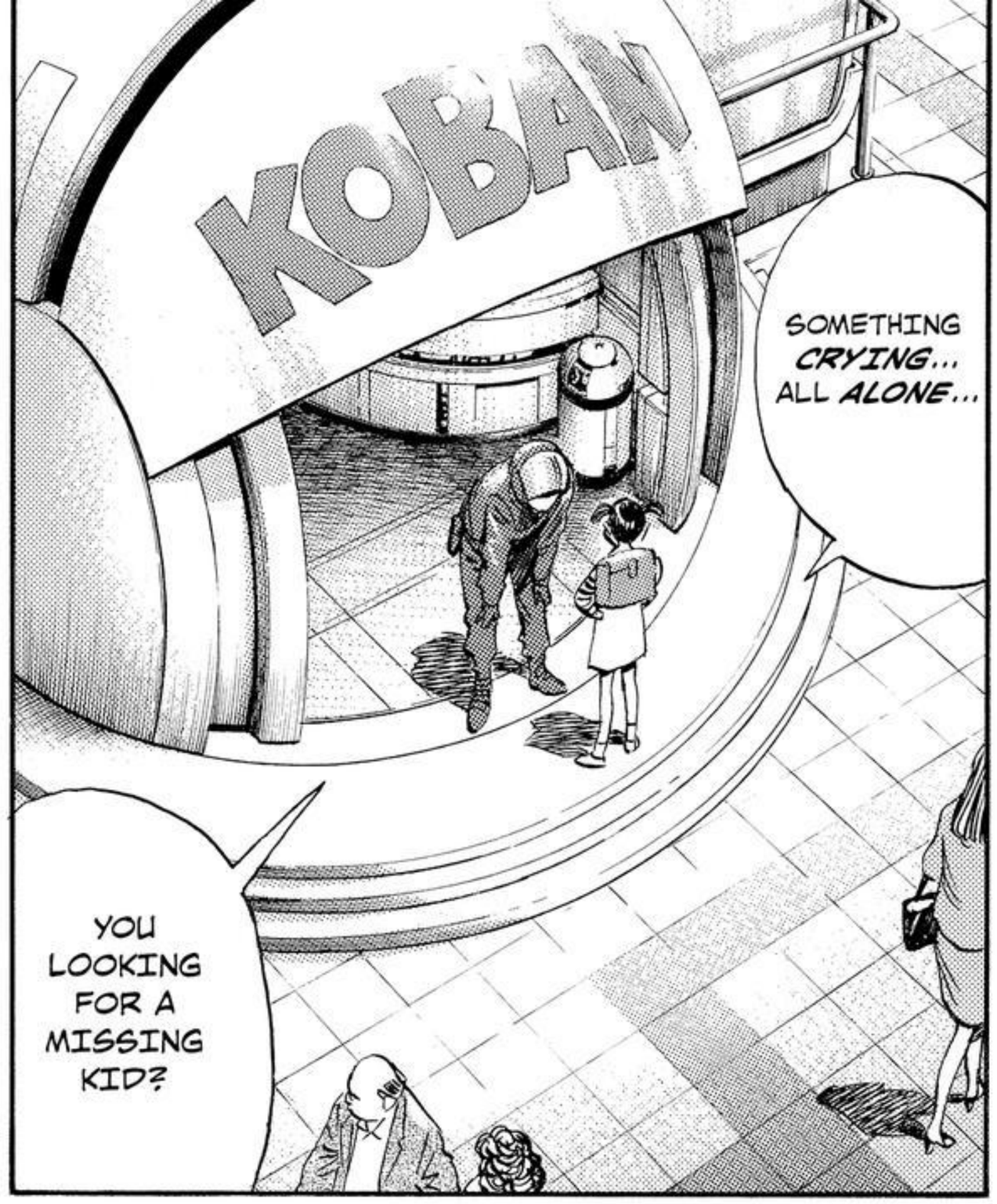
MAKE UP SOME GOOD EXCUSE FOR MY TEACHER MR. NATSUME, OKAY?
OKAY... BYE!


URAN!

HEY! HOW CAN I POSSIBLY STUDY WHEN I'M FEELING LIKE THIS!
HMPH... NO STOPPING YOU, IS THERE... I'VE GOT A TEST TODAY, SO I CAN'T GO WITH YOU...


WHAT A HANDFUL...

WHAT? PATROL THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD...?
POLICE
I DO THAT EVERY DAY...


KOBAN
SOMETHING CRYING... ALL ALONE...
YOU LOOKING FOR A MISSING KID?

THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU SEE ANYTHING?!

SEE WHAT?

IF I KNEW ALL THAT, I WOULDN'T BE ASKING YOU!
HEY, WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO SAY, KID? AND BESIDES, AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE IN SCHOOL?!

WELL? IS IT A BOY? A GIRL? WHAT'S THE NAME? ANY IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS?

N... NO, THAT'S NOT IT...
BUT COME TO THINK OF IT... IT MIGHT BE A LOST KID...

WHAT?!
IF YOU WERE DOING YOUR JOB RIGHT, YOU'D HAVE FOUND IT! IT WOULDN'T BE CRYING ALL BY ITS POOR SELF...!!

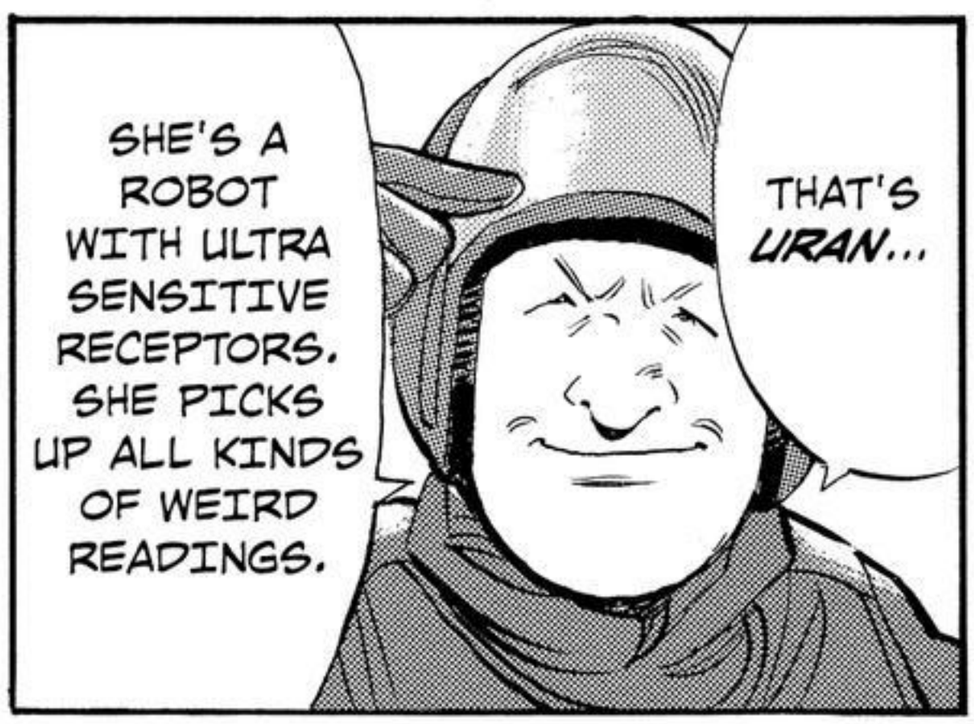
I TOLD YOU... I HAVE BEEN!

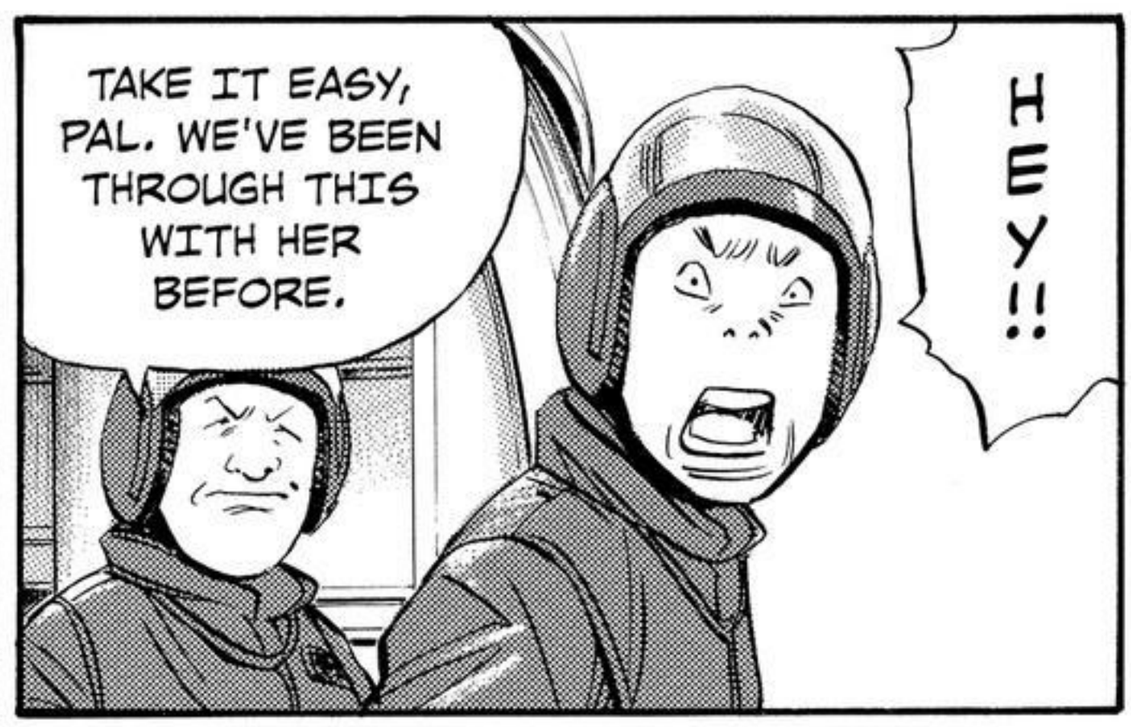
WHAT ABOUT YOURSELF?! SHOULDN'T YOU BE OUT PATROLLING?

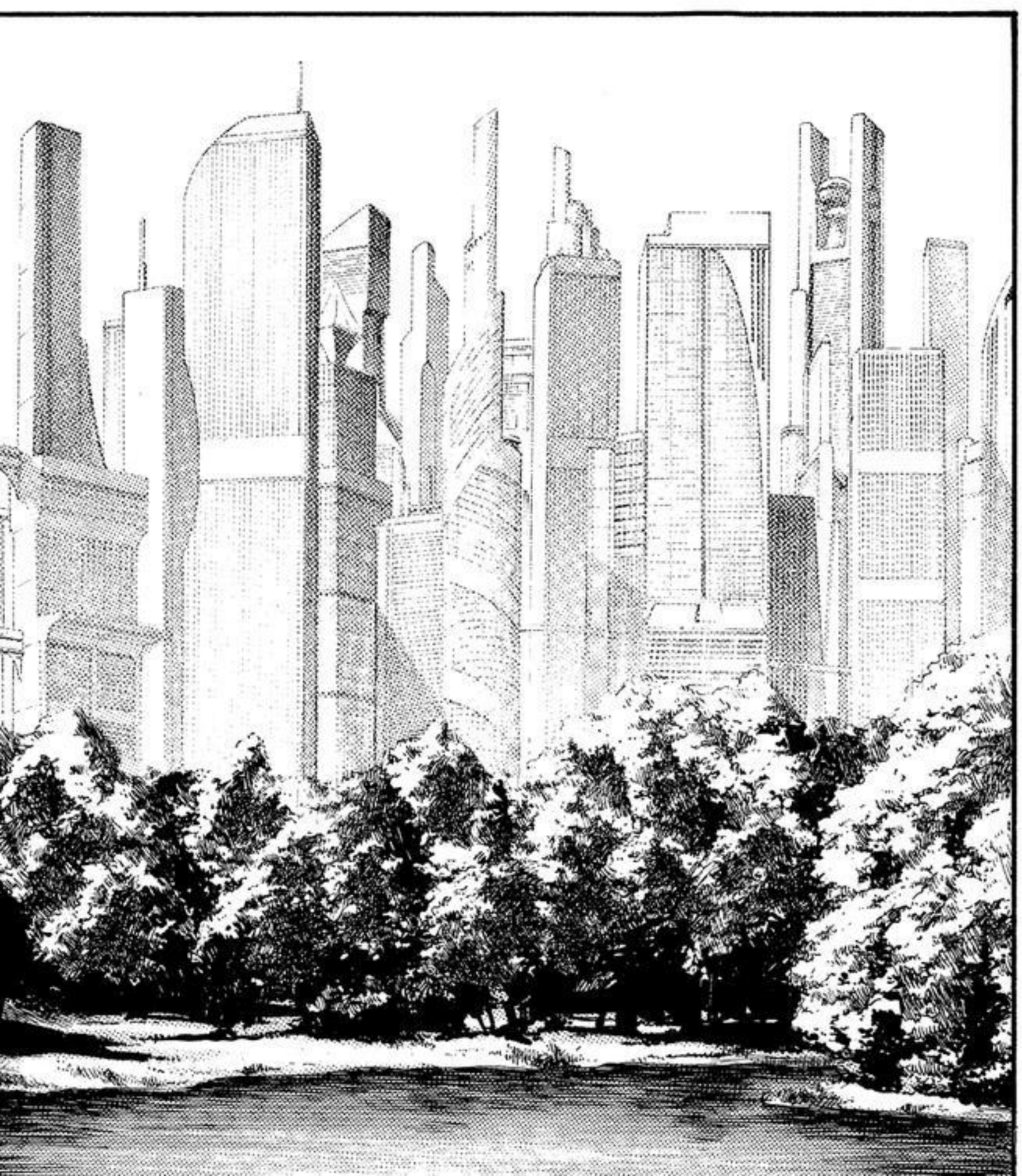
A CAT ?!!
NEVER MIND. YOU POLICE WON'T BE ANY HELP ANYWAY.

MAYBE SHE'S TALKING ABOUT A CAT OR SOMETHING...

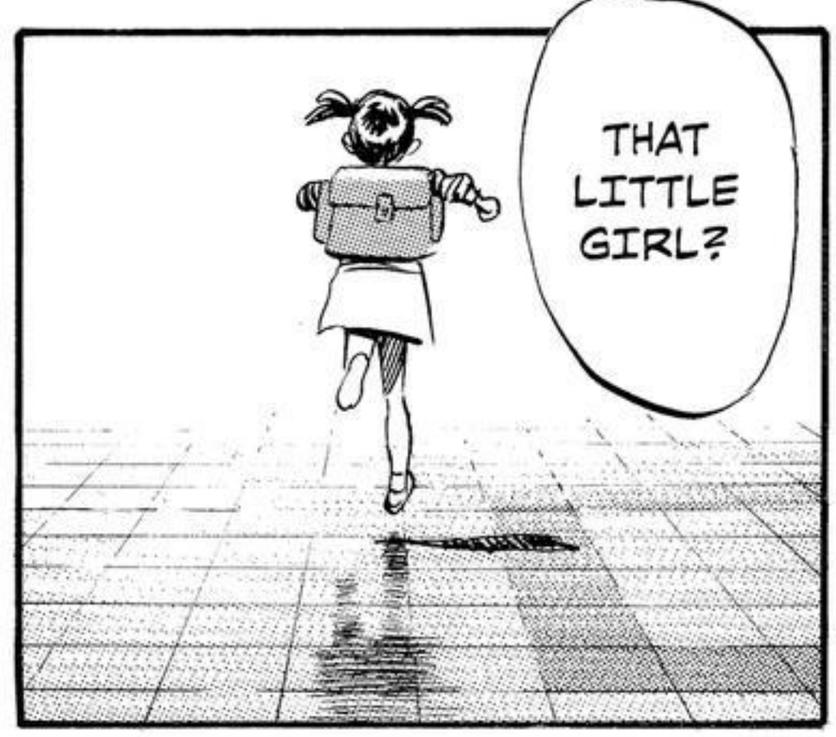
IT COULD BE A CAT...
HMM...


SHE'S A ROBOT WITH ULTRA SENSITIVE RECEPTORS. SHE PICKS UP ALL KINDS OF WEIRD READINGS.
THAT'S URAN...

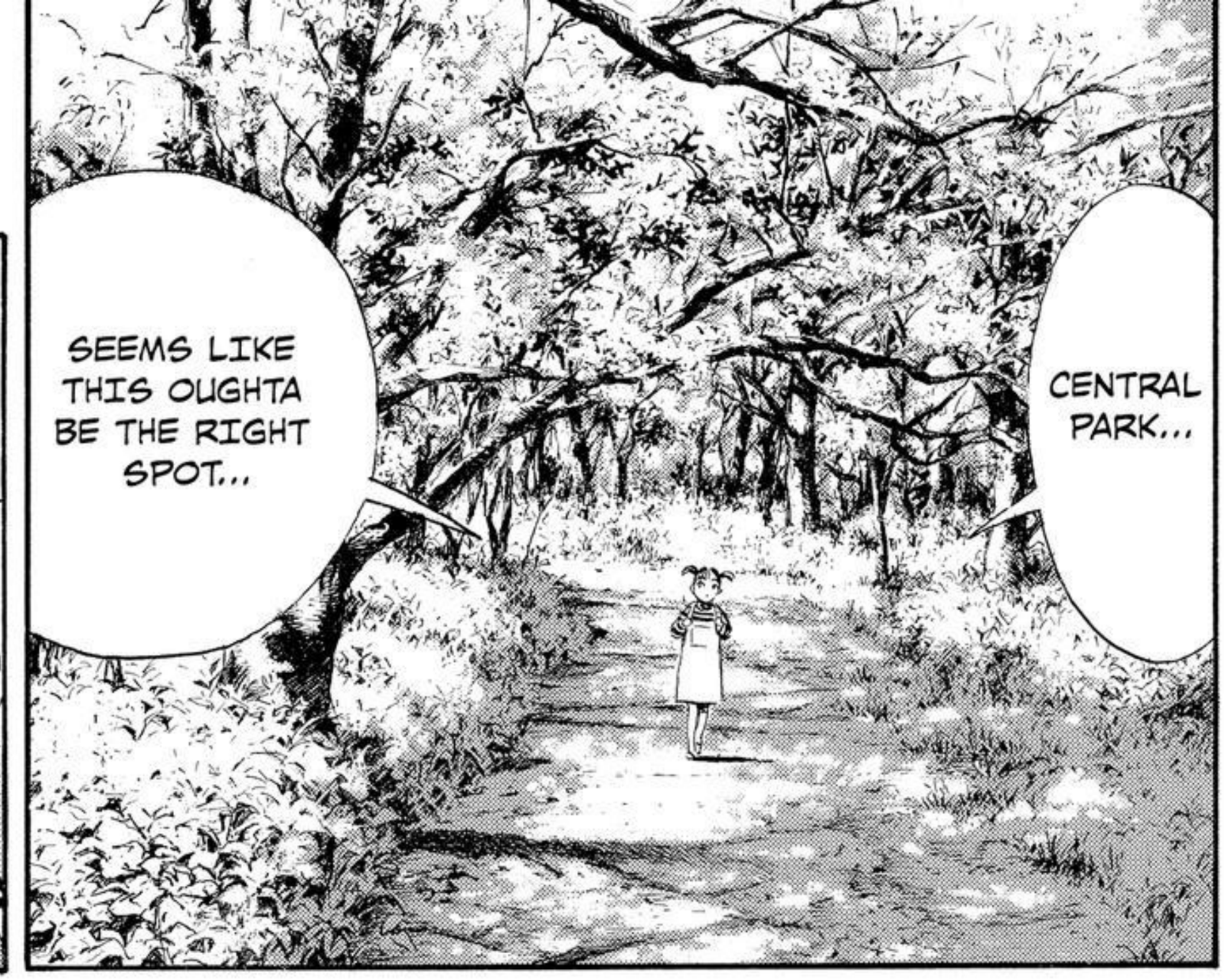

TAKE IT EASY, PAL. WE'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS WITH HER BEFORE.
HEY!!

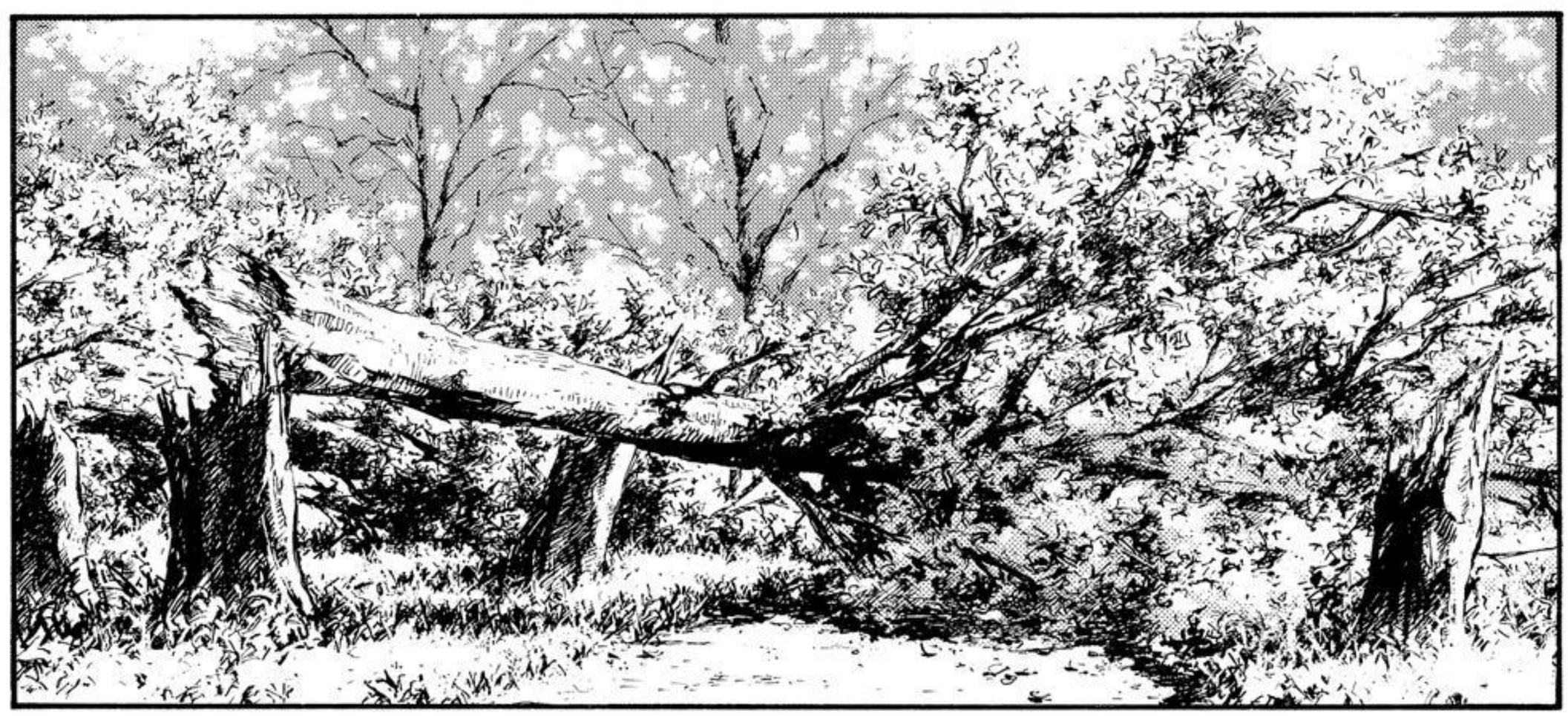


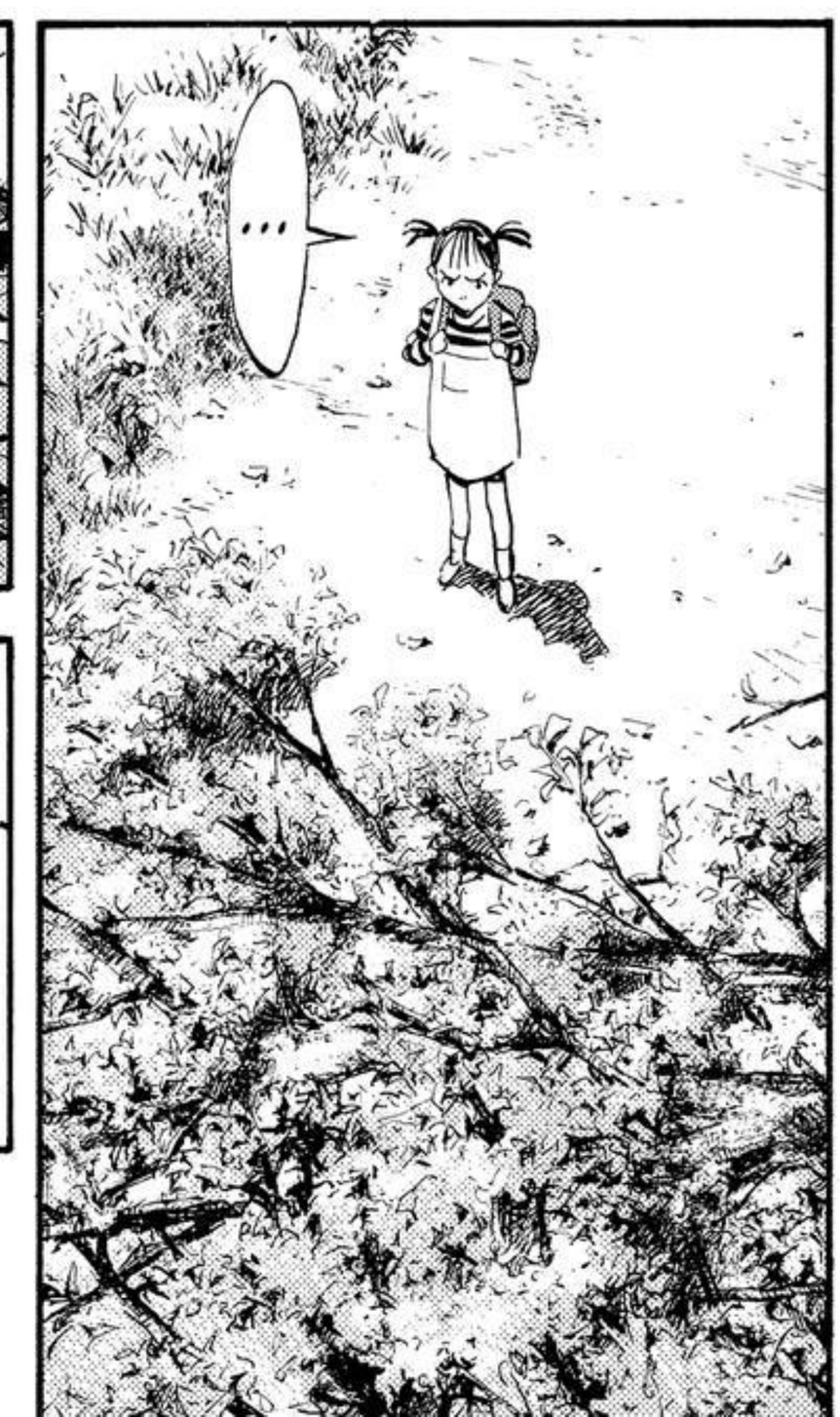
YOU'RE KID-DING !!
URAN?! A ROBOT ?!


THAT LITTLE GIRL?

HMM...


SEEMS LIKE THIS OUGHTA BE THE RIGHT SPOT...
CENTRAL PARK...

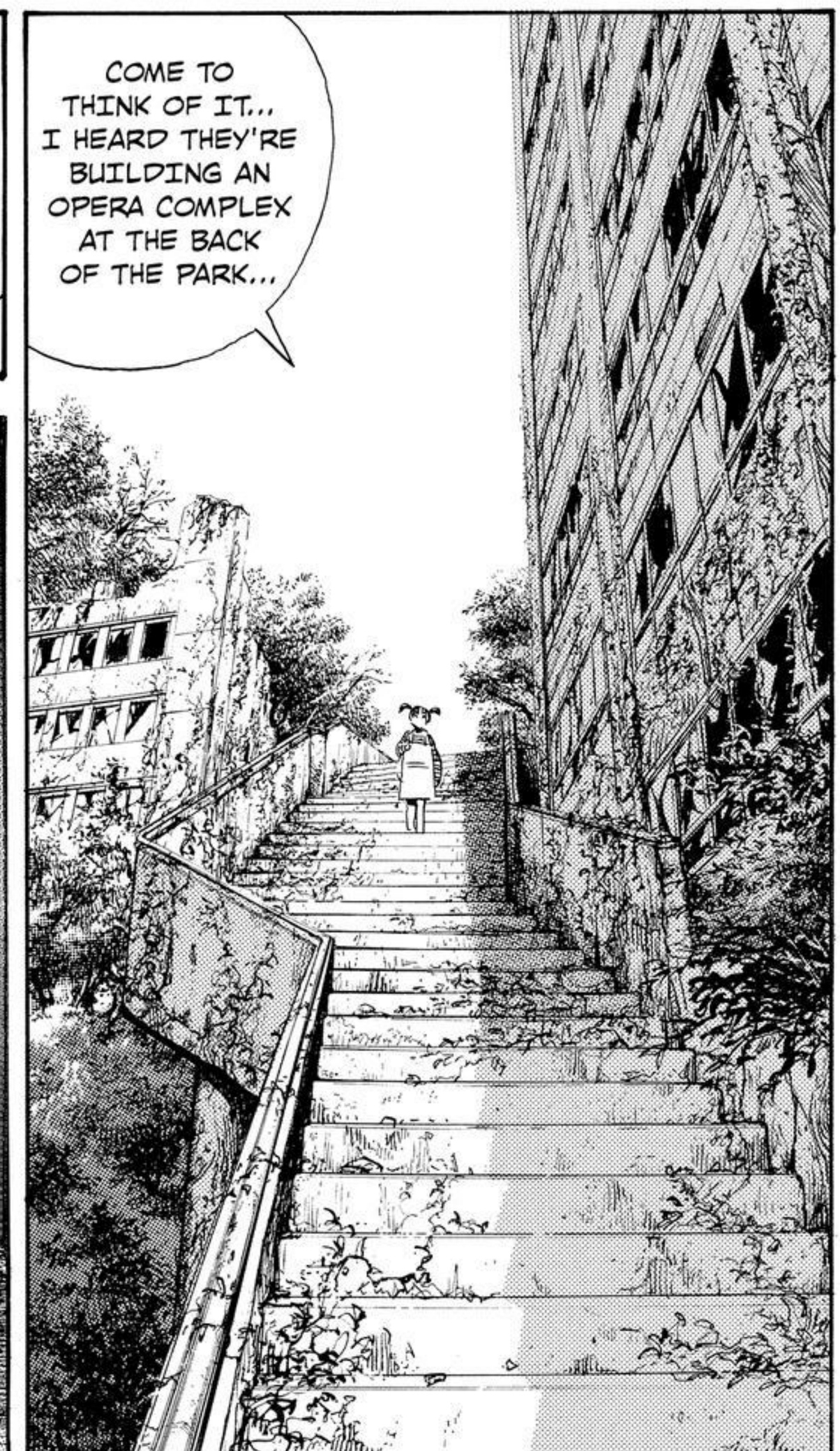



...

!!

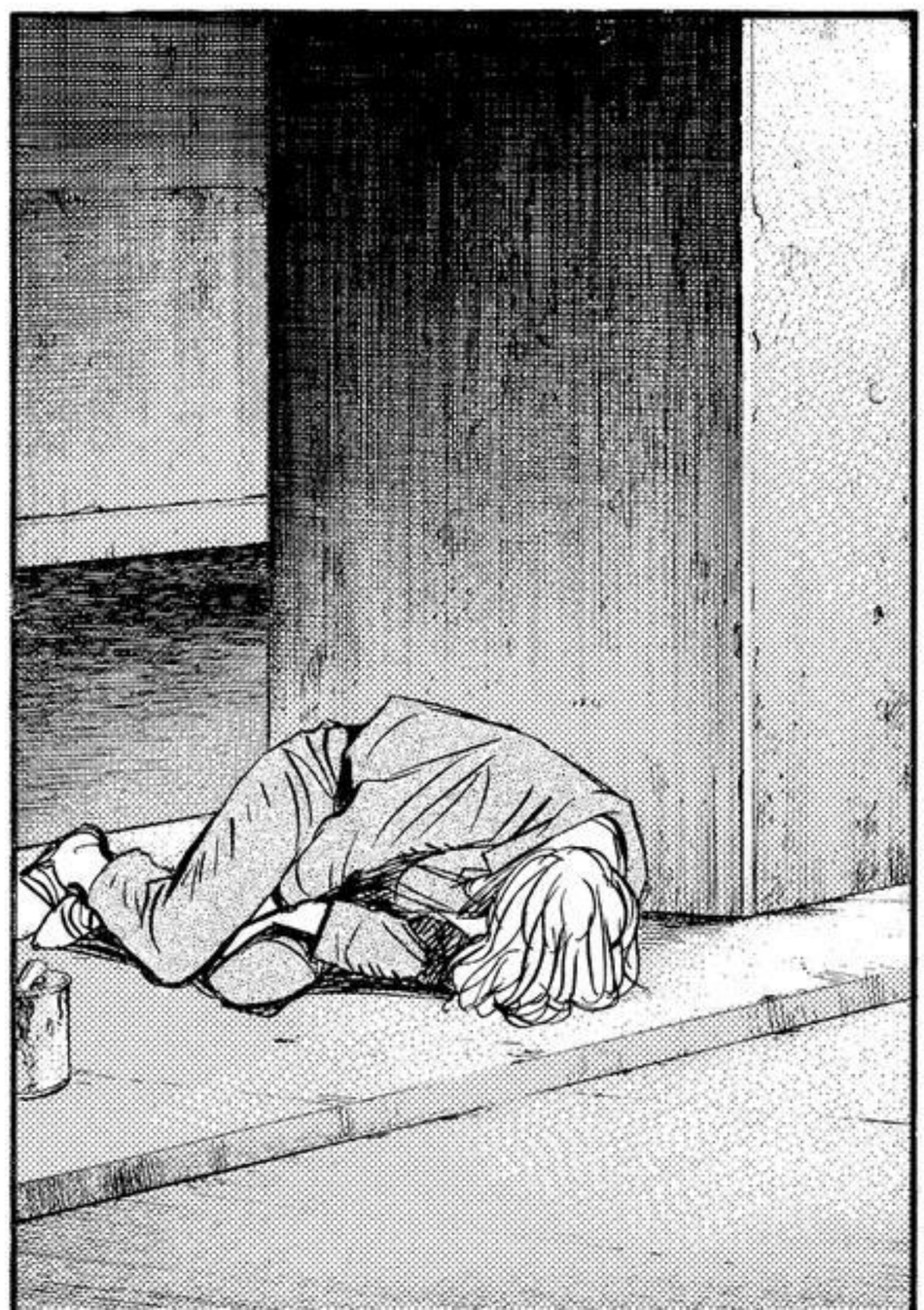
再開発地区
REDEVELOPMENT ZONE
立入禁止
NO TRESPASSING

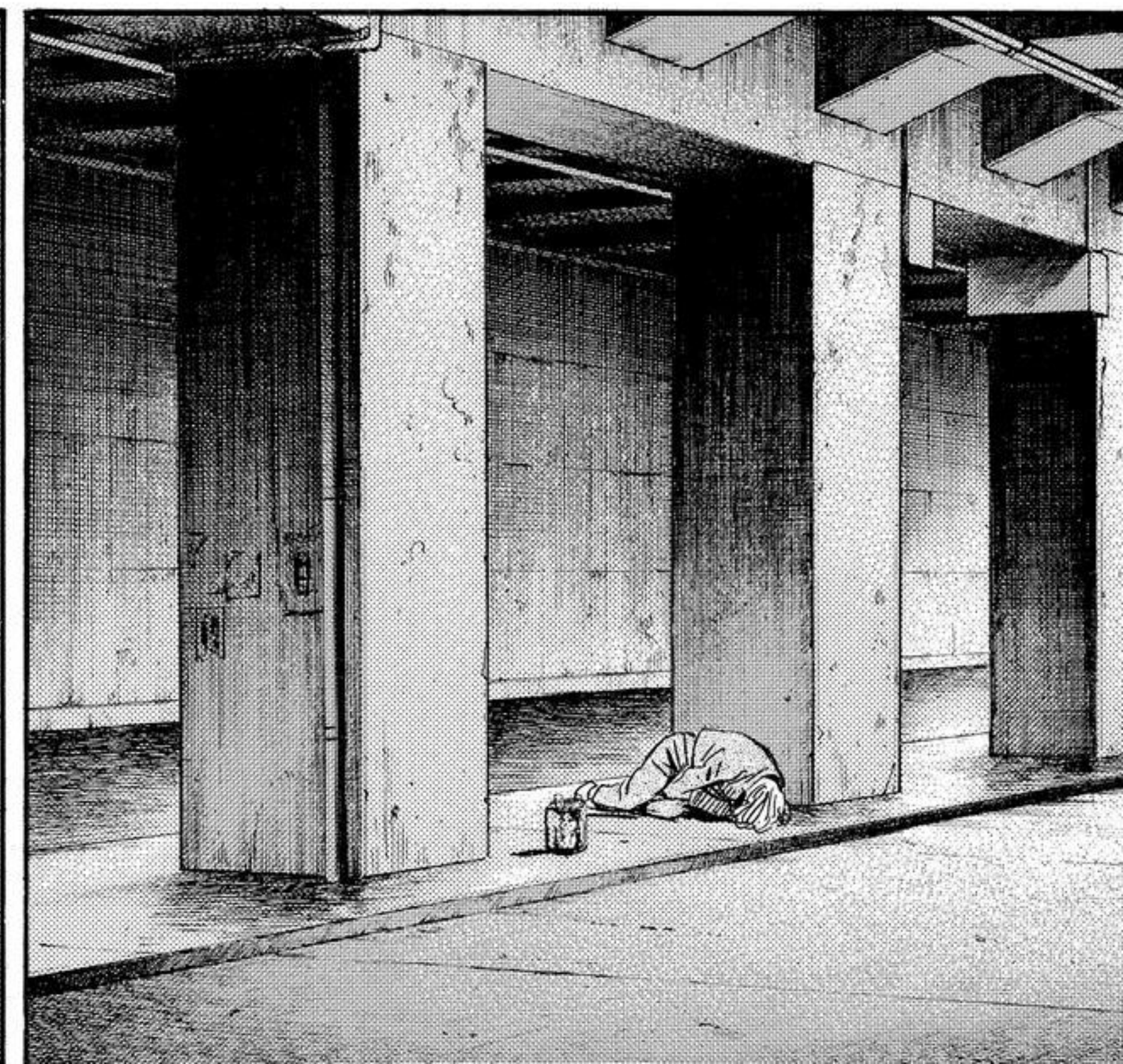
MAYBE THIS WAY...?


COME TO THINK OF IT... I HEARD THEY'RE BUILDING AN OPERA COMPLEX AT THE BACK OF THE PARK...

OH MY... WHAT'S THIS?

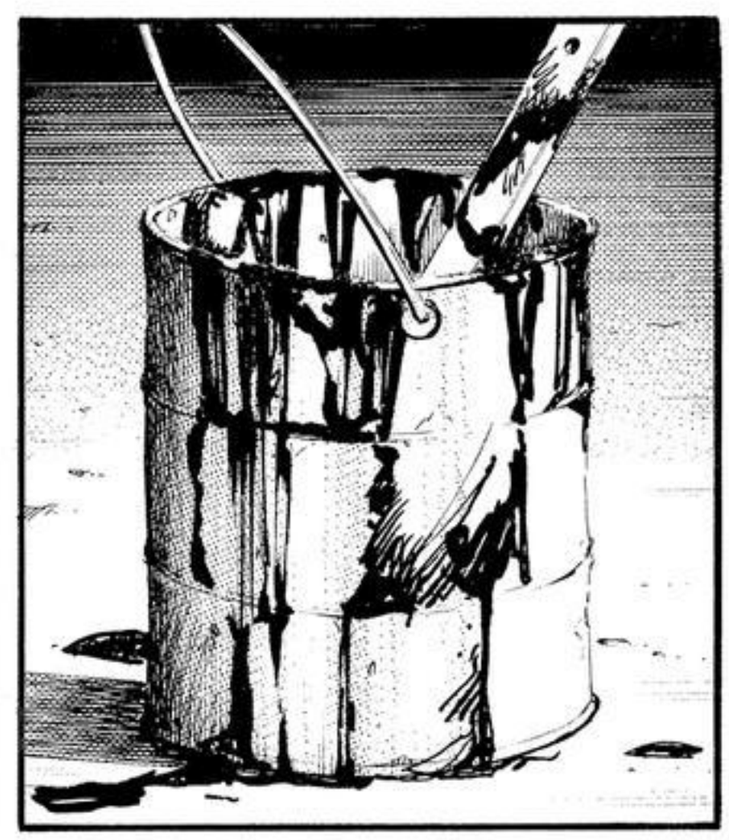
WHAT A CRUMMY DRAWING.





UM...

MISTER?



WERE YOU THE ONE...
...WHO WAS CRYING?

ARE YOU DEAD?

...AREN'T YOU?
YOU'RE A ROBOT...

WAIT...

I'D BETTER GO GET HELP!

LEAVE ME ALONE...

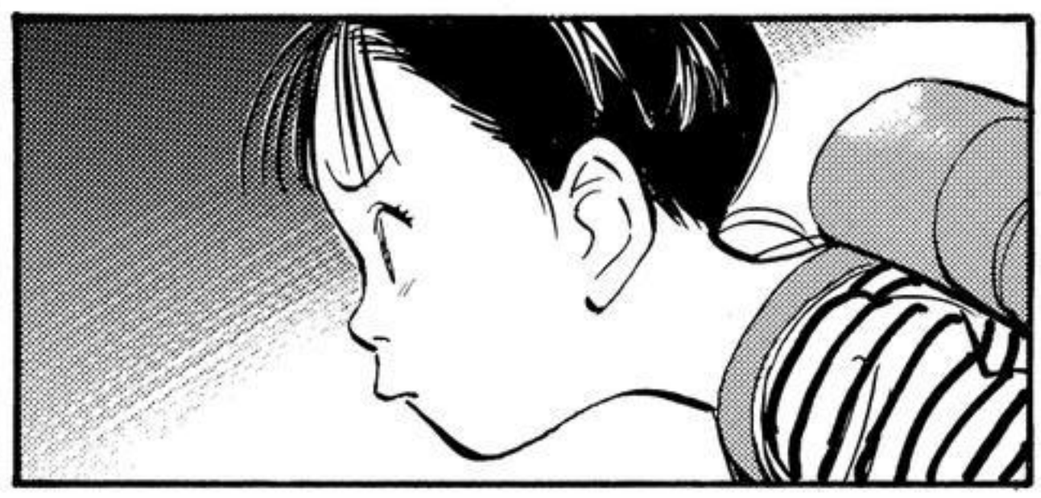
NO?! BUT IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING, YOU'LL DIE!

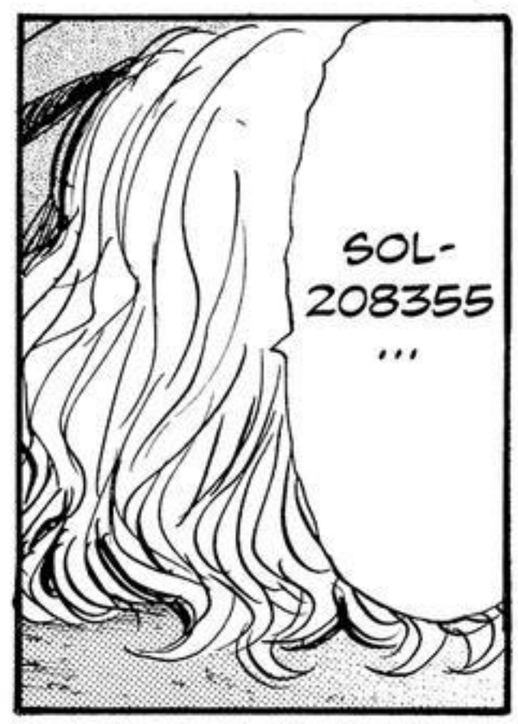
PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU CAN FIX *ANYTHING*!
DON'T WORRY, MISTER! I'LL GO TO THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE.

NO! YOU CAN'T DIE!!

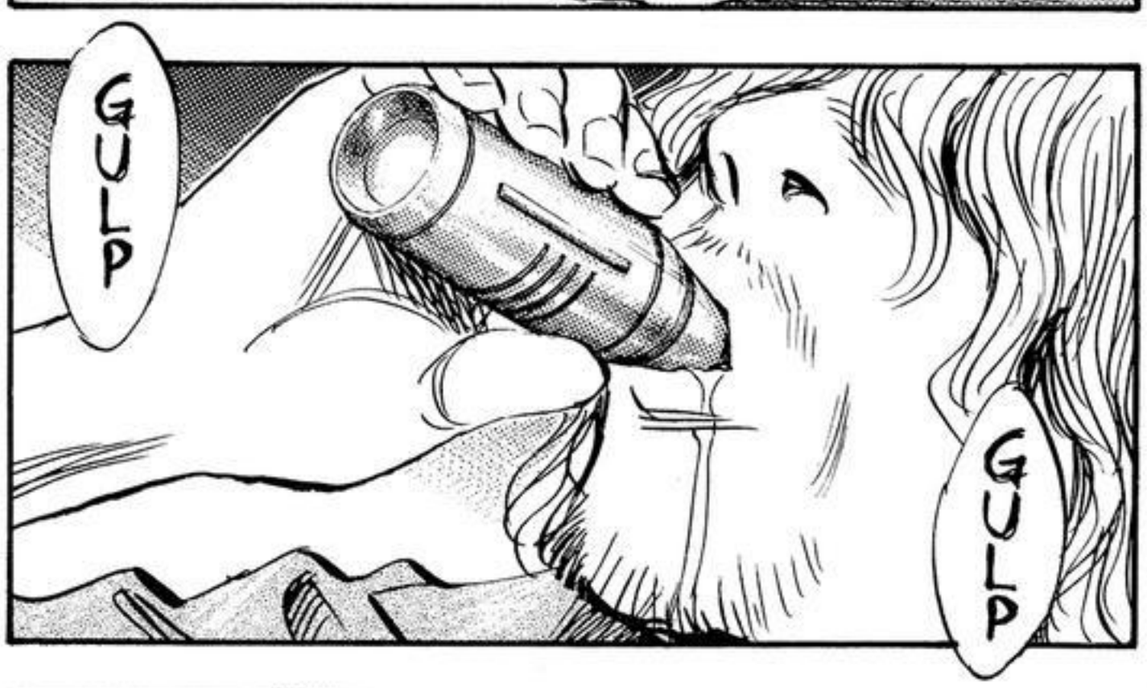
NO... *PLEASE*...

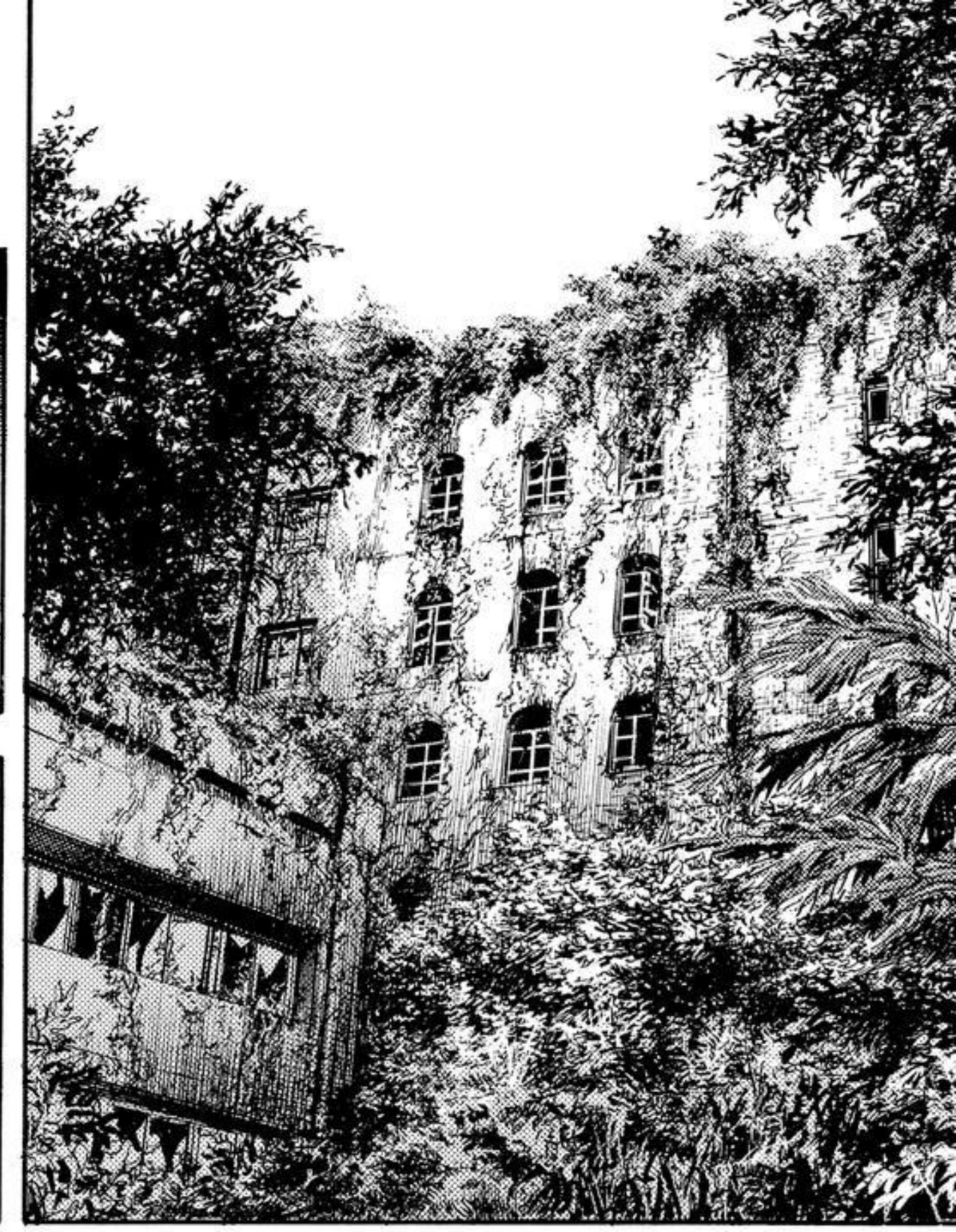
THEN WHAT DO YOU NEED? WHAT KIND OF ENERGY DO YOU USE?



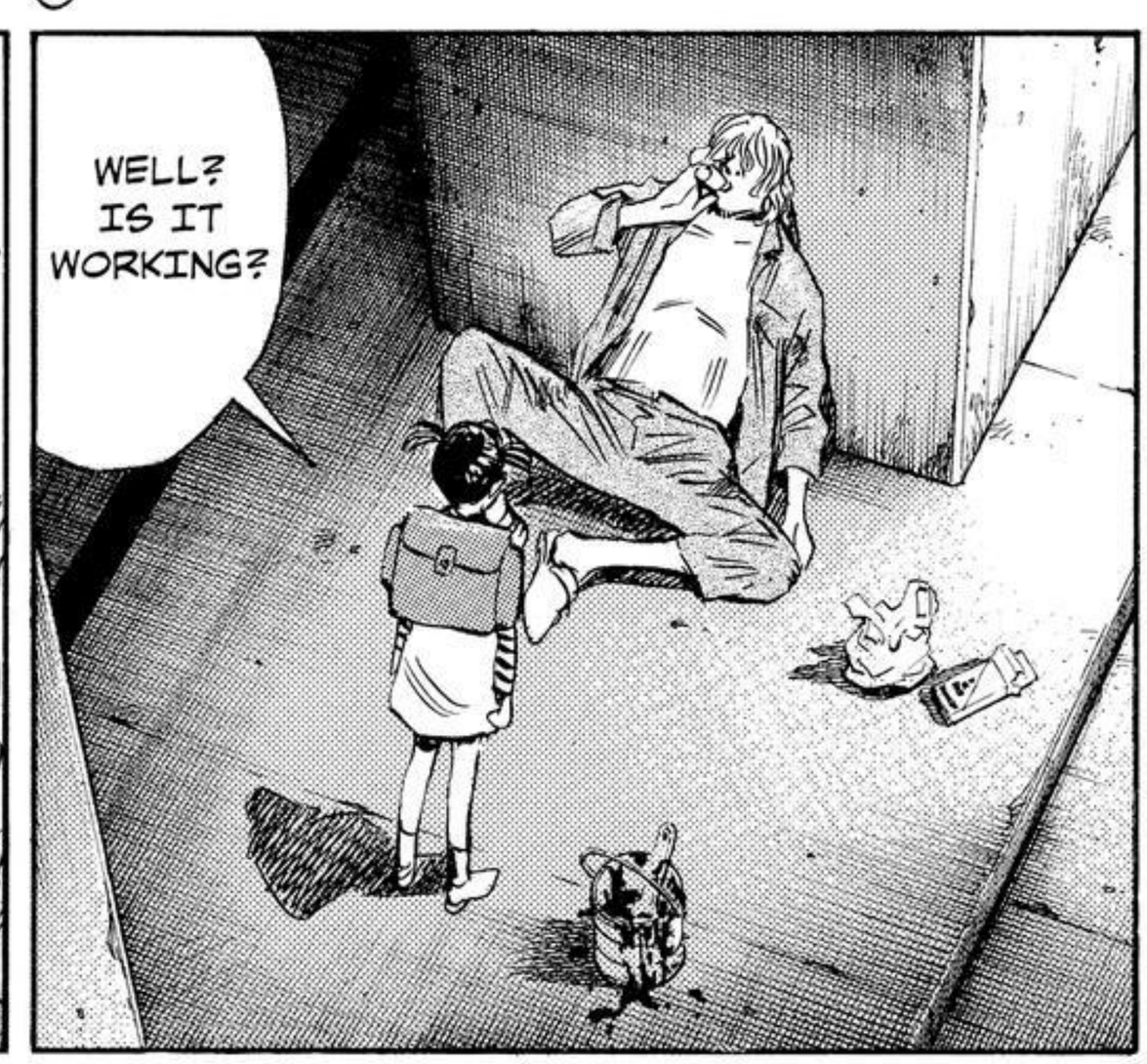


BIER1059!


GULP
GULP



THE SHOPKEEPER RECOMMENDED IT...
IT'S A NEW ENERGY CATALYST... ONE DRINK AND YOU'RE IN THE PINK!


WELL? IS IT WORKING?

YOU OKAY? ARE YOU HAVING A BAD REACTION?

COUGH COUGH COUGH...
!!

I FEEL BETTER NOW...

TH-THANK YOU...

SO, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

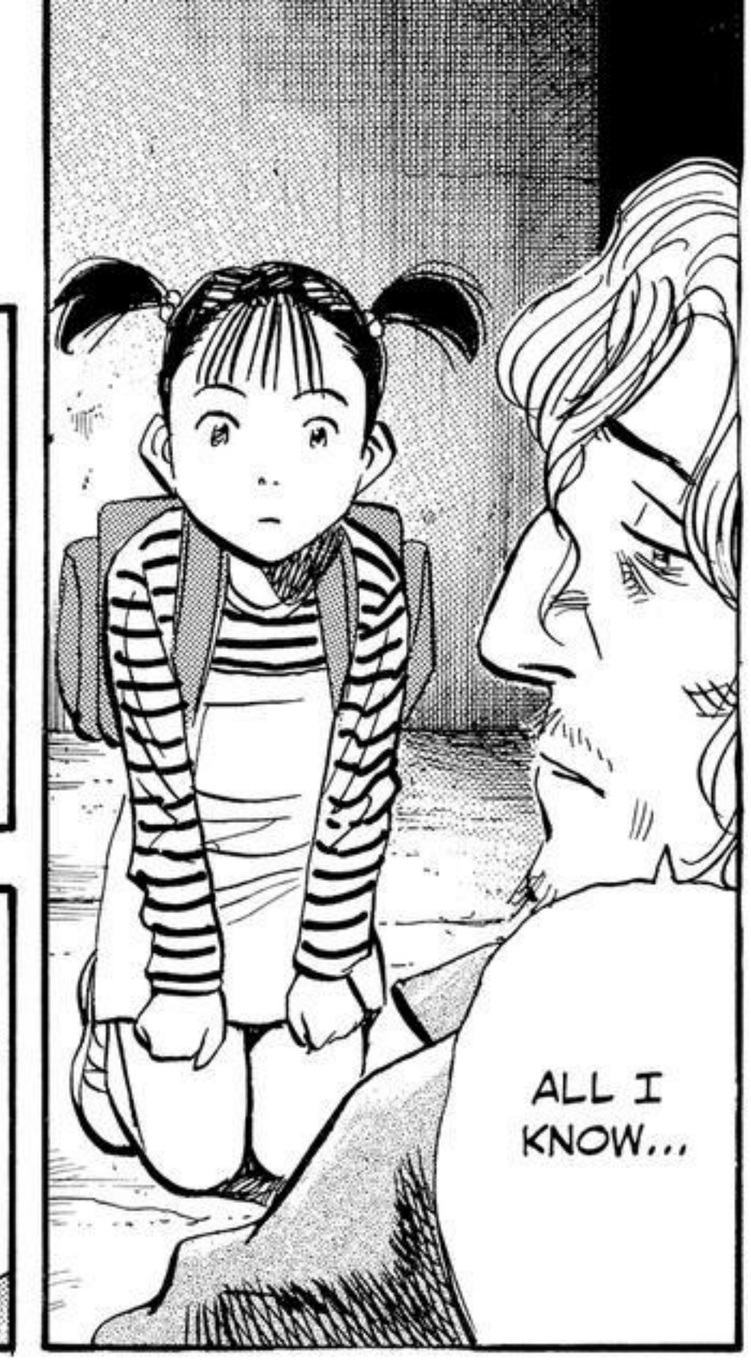
THAT'S A RELIEF...

I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING...

WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?

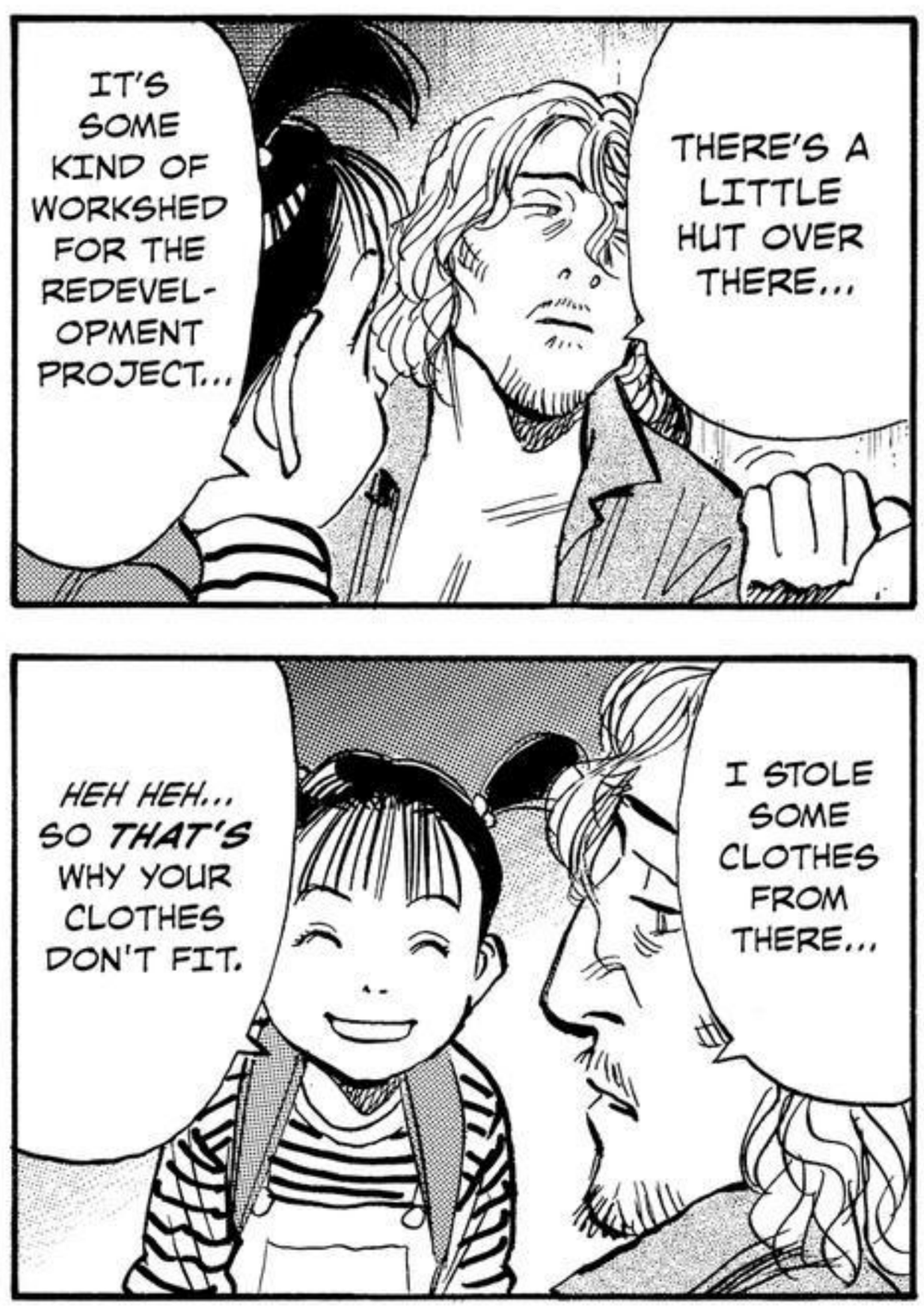
I DON'T KNOW...

I WAS RUNNING FROM SOME-THING...
...IS THAT I RAN HERE AS FAST AS I COULD, NAKED...

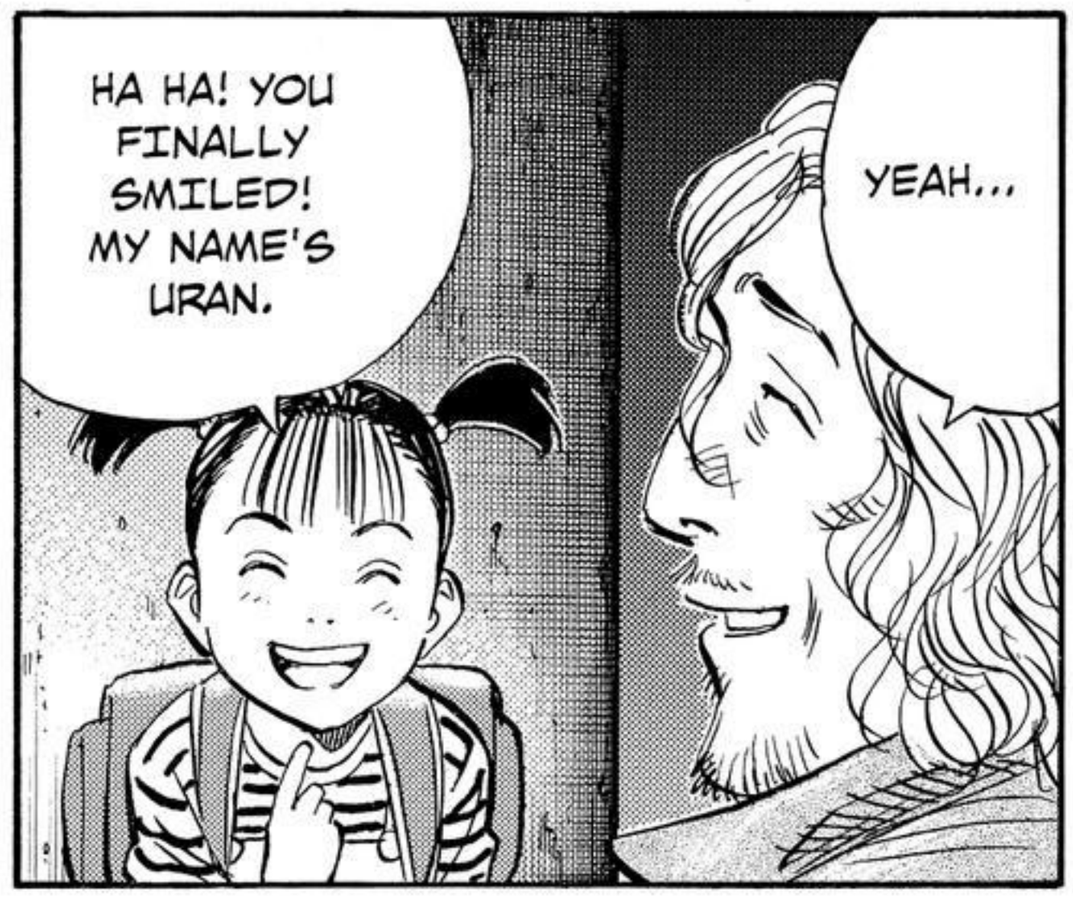

ALL I KNOW...

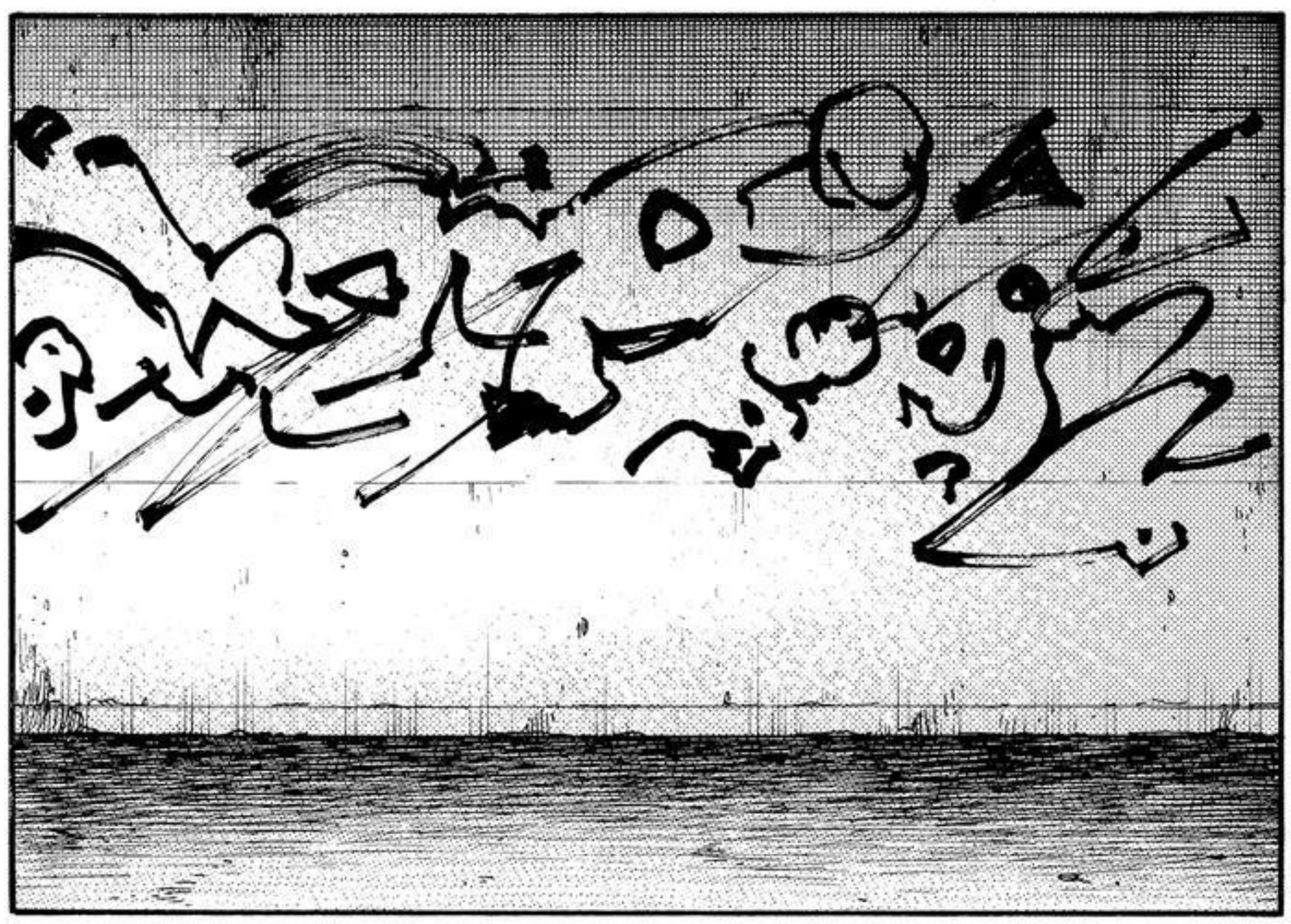
...FROM SOME-THING...?
RUNNING AWAY...

I WAS SO *AFRAID*...
YES, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT...


IT'S SOME KIND OF WORKSHED FOR THE REDEVEL-OPMENT PROJECT...
THERE'S A LITTLE HUT OVER THERE...
HEH HEH... SO *THAT'S* WHY YOUR CLOTHES DON'T FIT.
I STOLE SOME CLOTHES FROM THERE...

URAN...


HA HA! YOU FINALLY SMILED! MY NAME'S URAN.
YEAH...



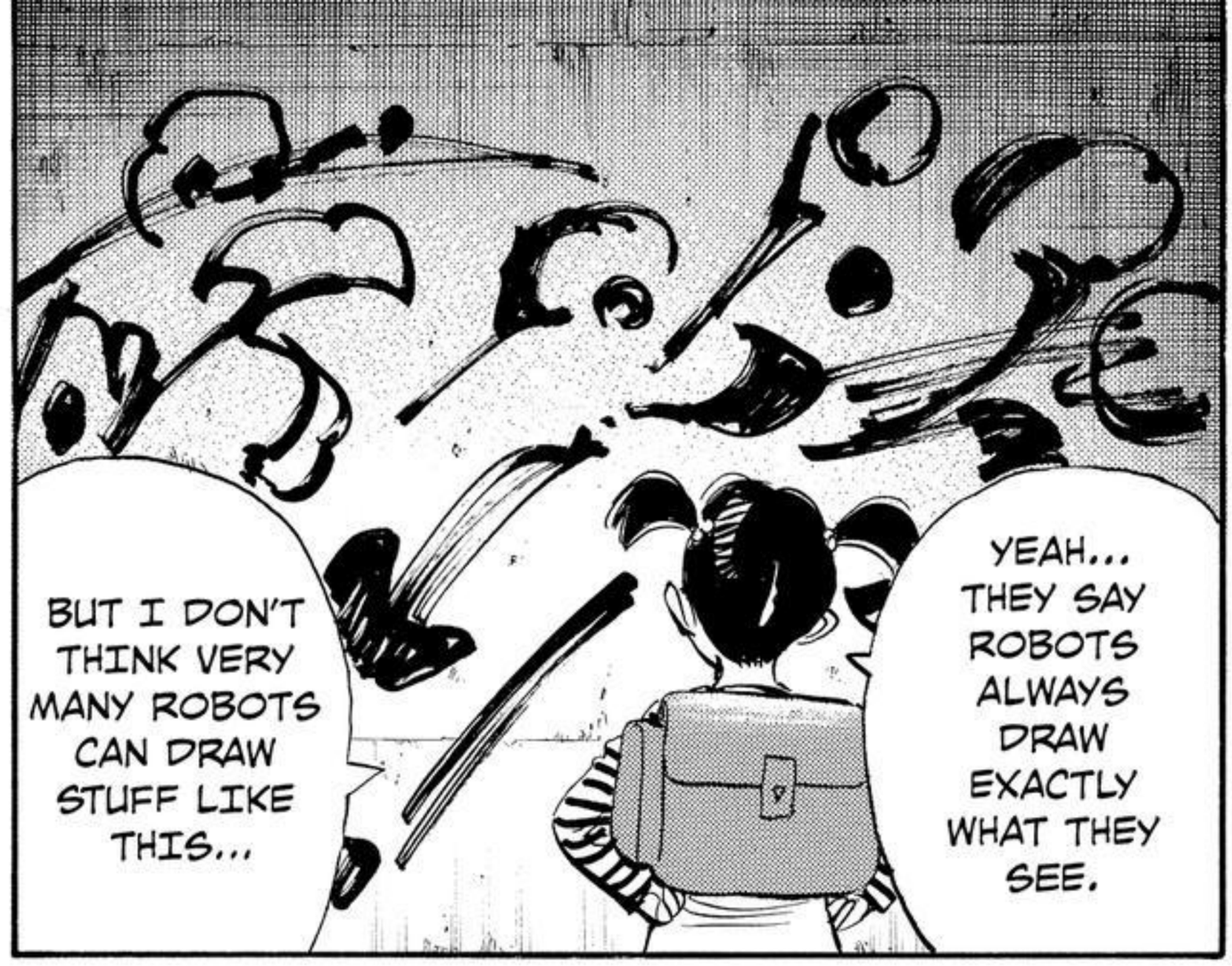
THOSE DRAWINGS OVER THERE... DID YOU DO THEM?

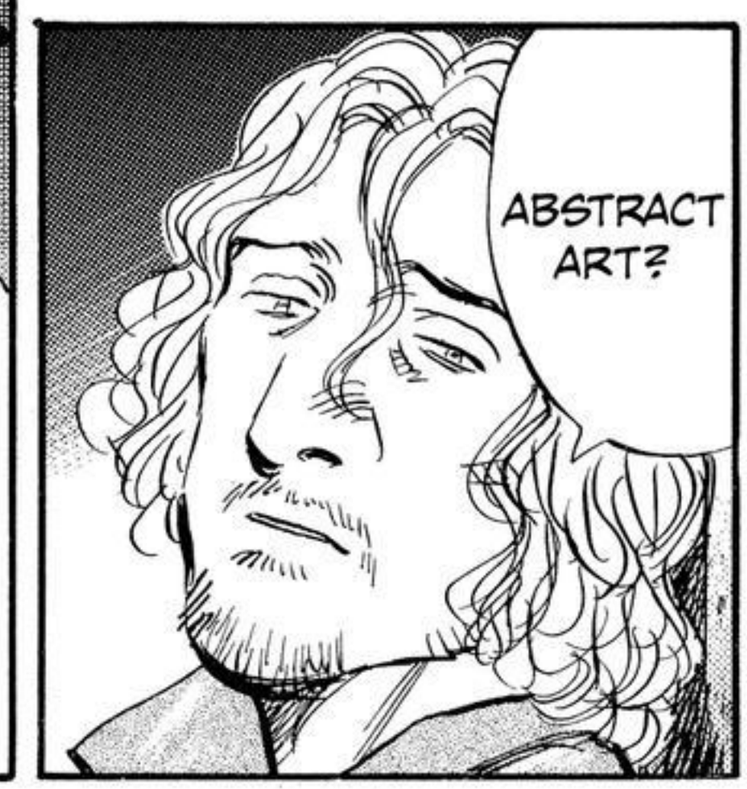
I KNOW WHAT THIS STUFF'S CALLED. IT'S *ABSTRACT ART*!

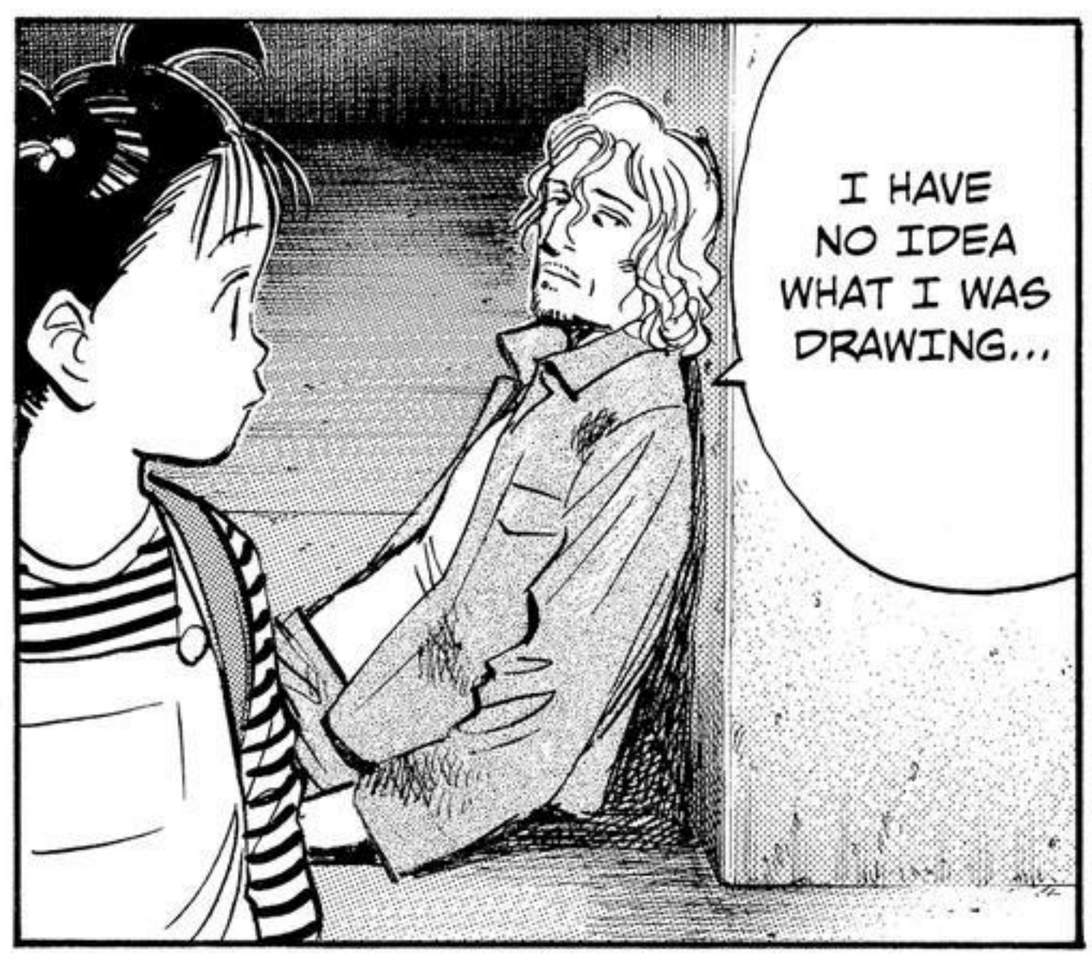
I DON'T KNOW... BUT I HAD AN URGE TO DRAW...

YEAH... THERE WAS SOME PAINT IN THE SHED...

SO YOU AN ARTIST, MISTER?


BUT I DON'T THINK VERY MANY ROBOTS CAN DRAW STUFF LIKE THIS...
YEAH... THEY SAY ROBOTS ALWAYS DRAW EXACTLY WHAT THEY SEE.


ABSTRACT ART?

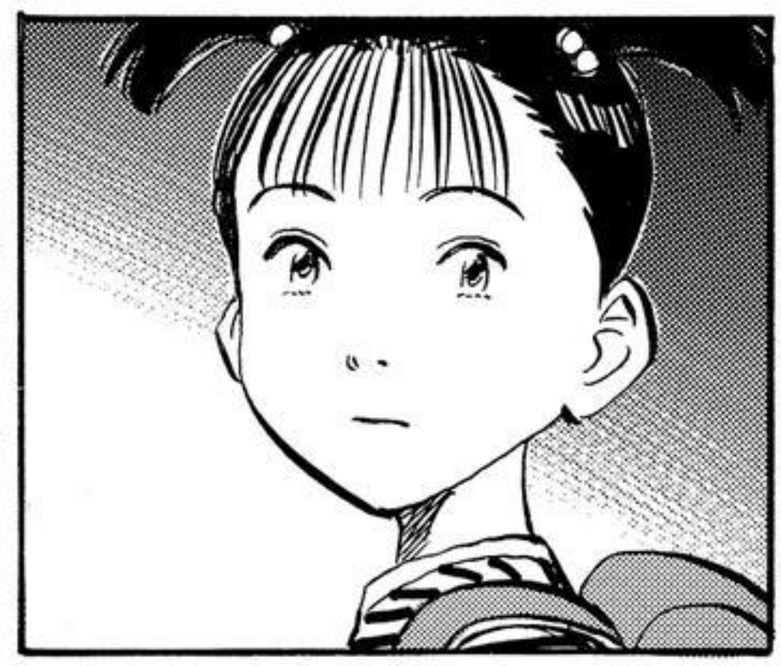

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I WAS DRAWING...

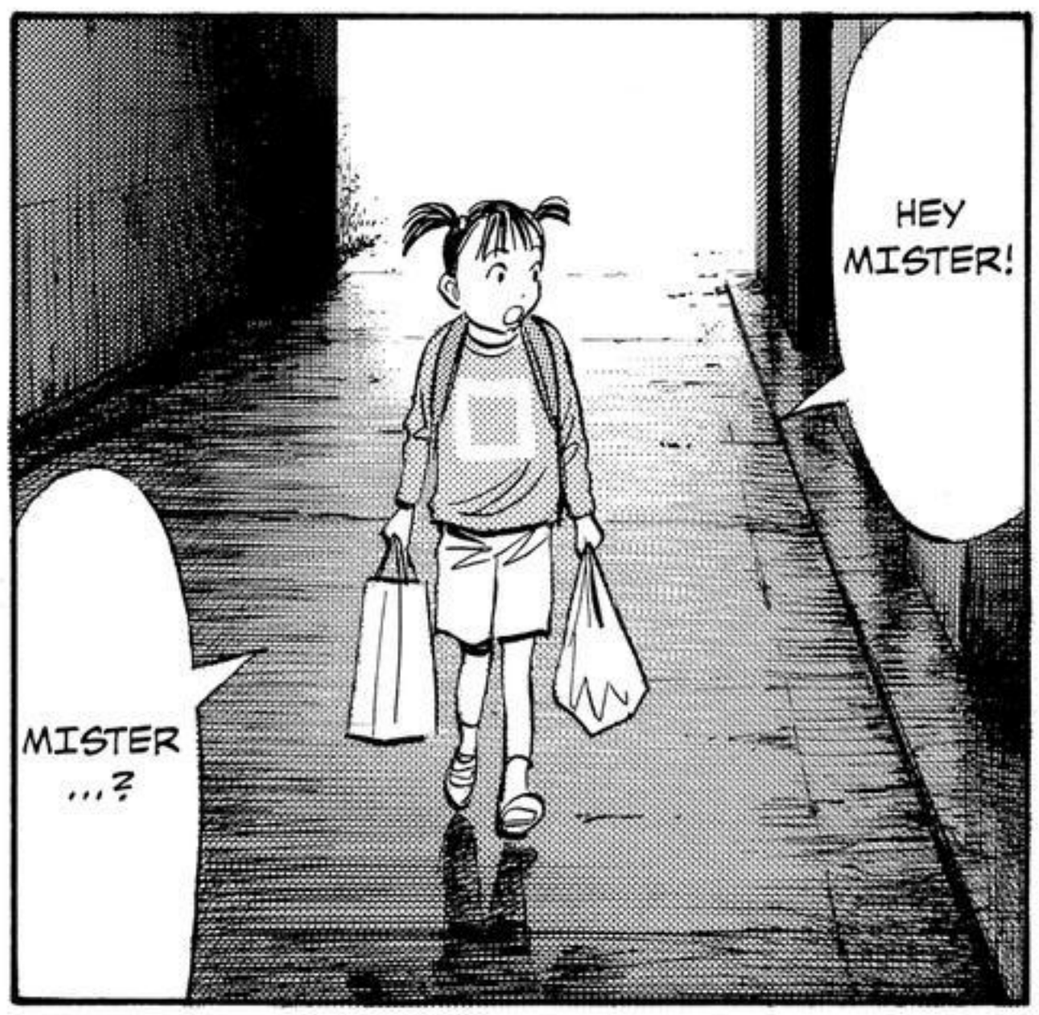
THEN AGAIN, MAYBE YOU'RE JUST A REALLY *BAD ARTIST*! *HEH HEH...*

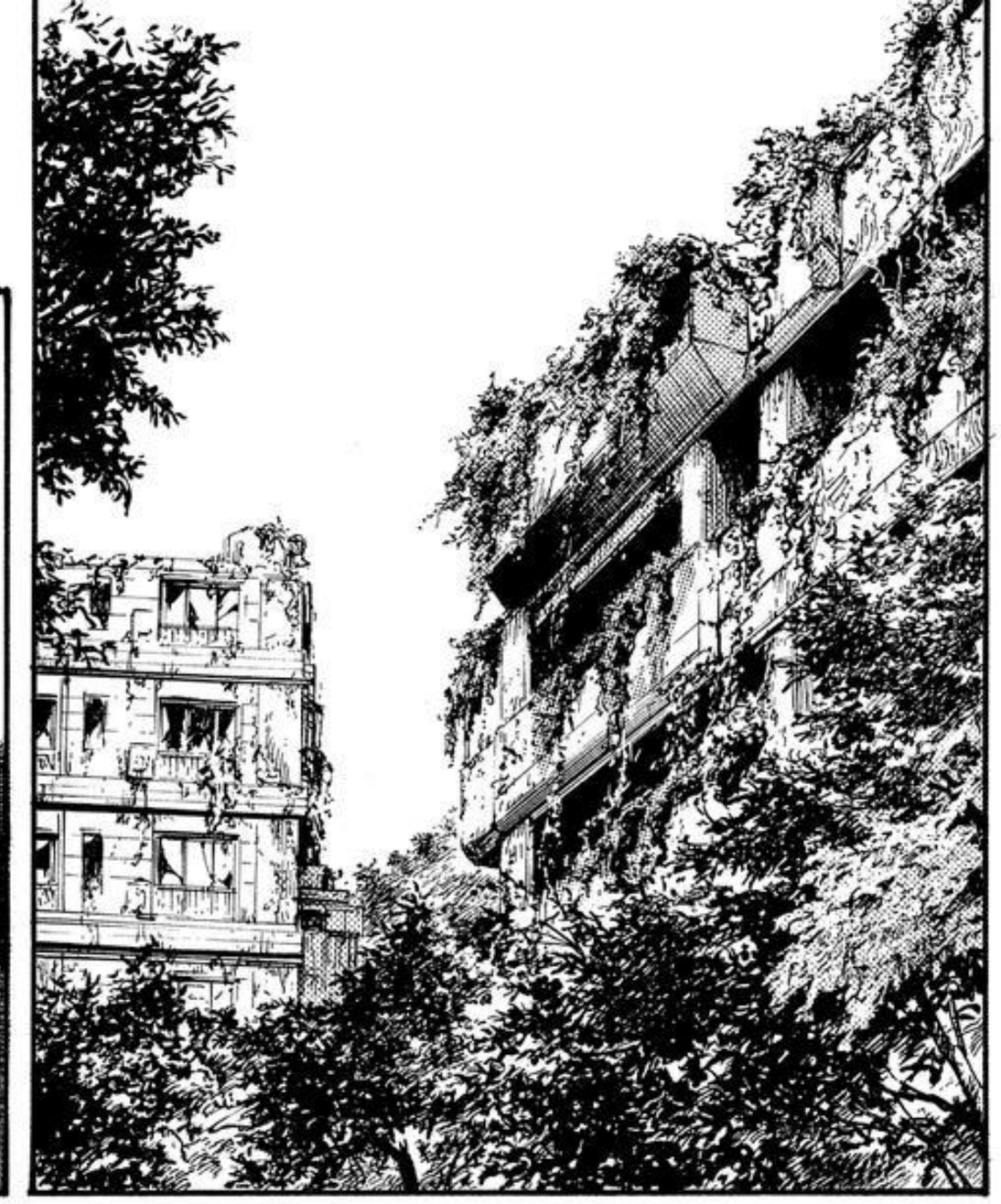
MAYBE...

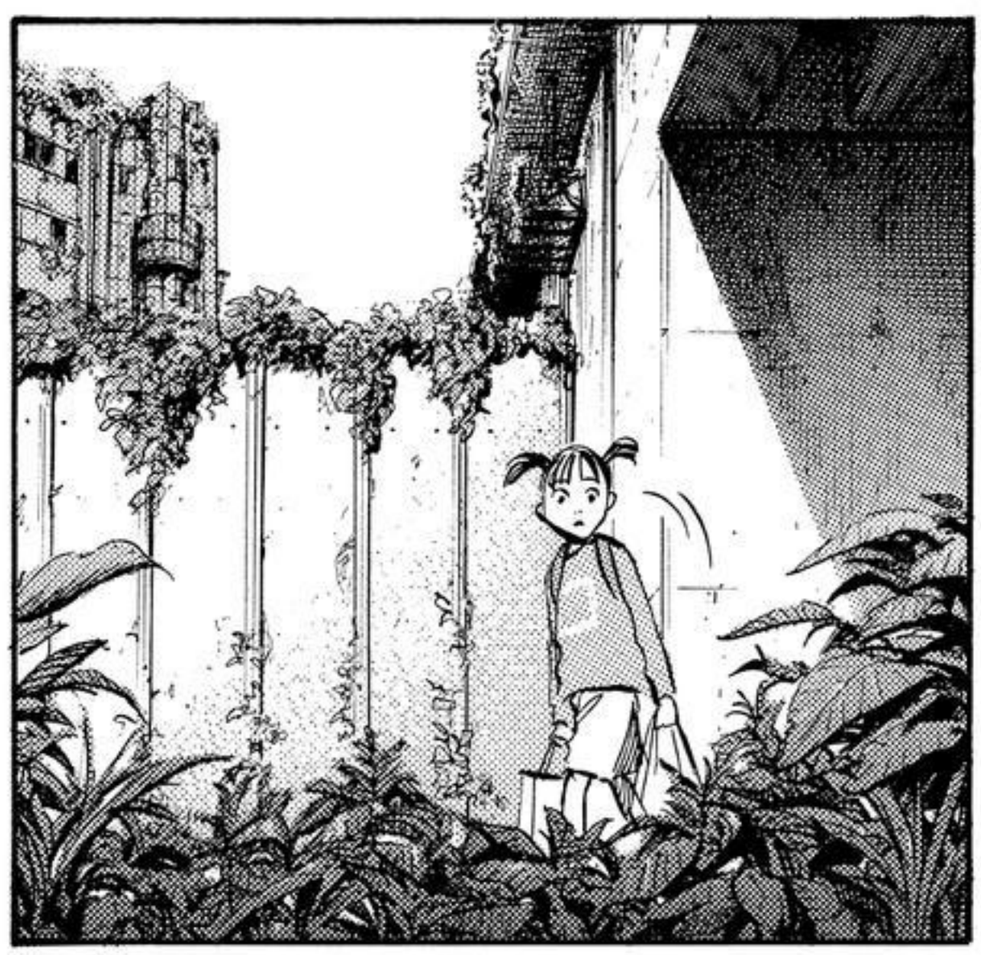
I JUST DON'T KNOW...

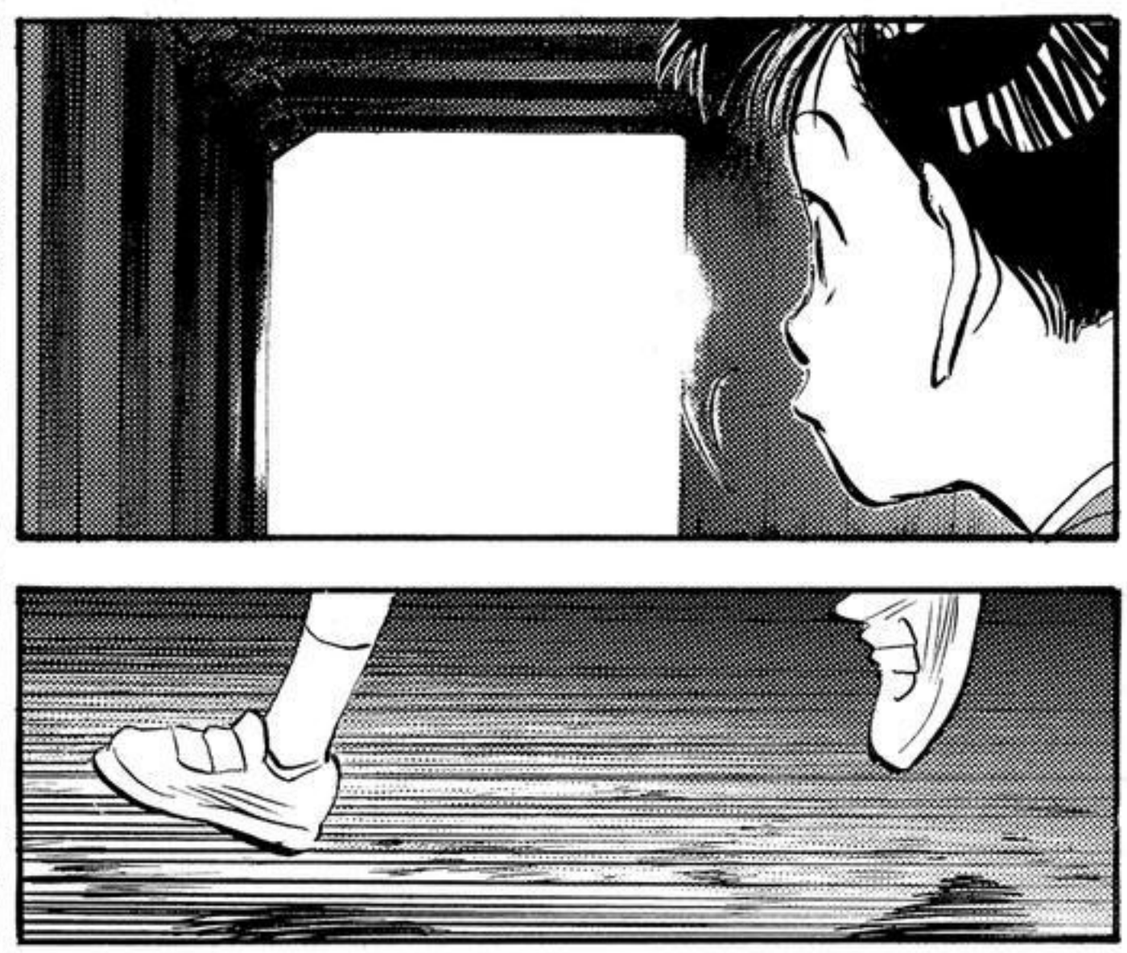
OR WHY I EVEN DREW IT...

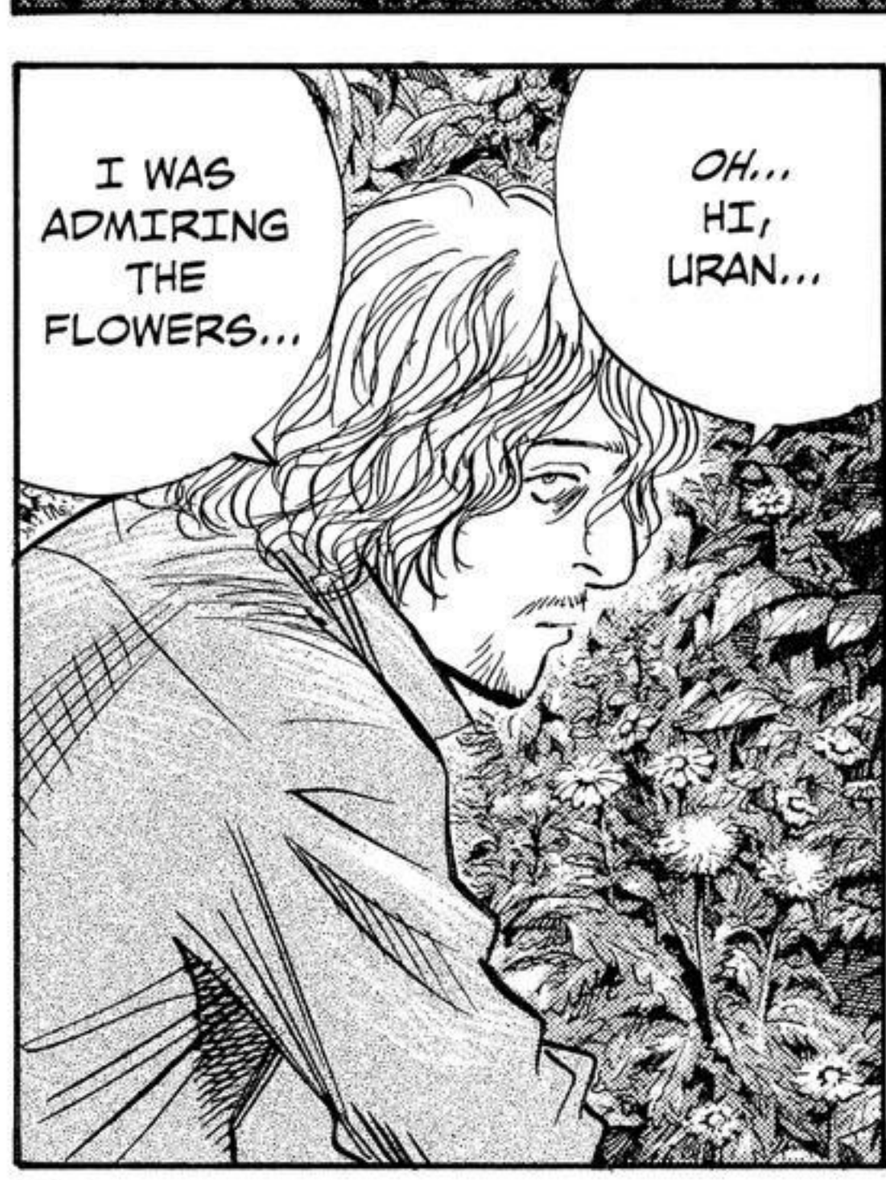



HEY MISTER!
MISTER ...?



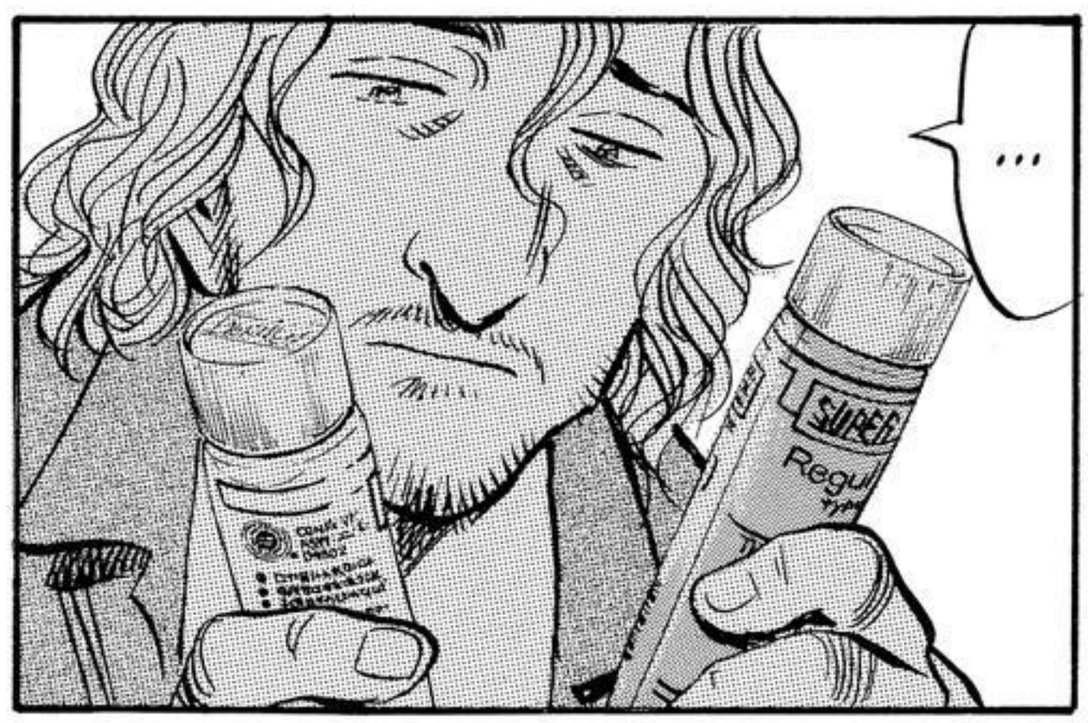





I WAS ADMIRING THE FLOWERS...
OH... HI, URAN...

WHAT'RE YOU DOING, MISTER?

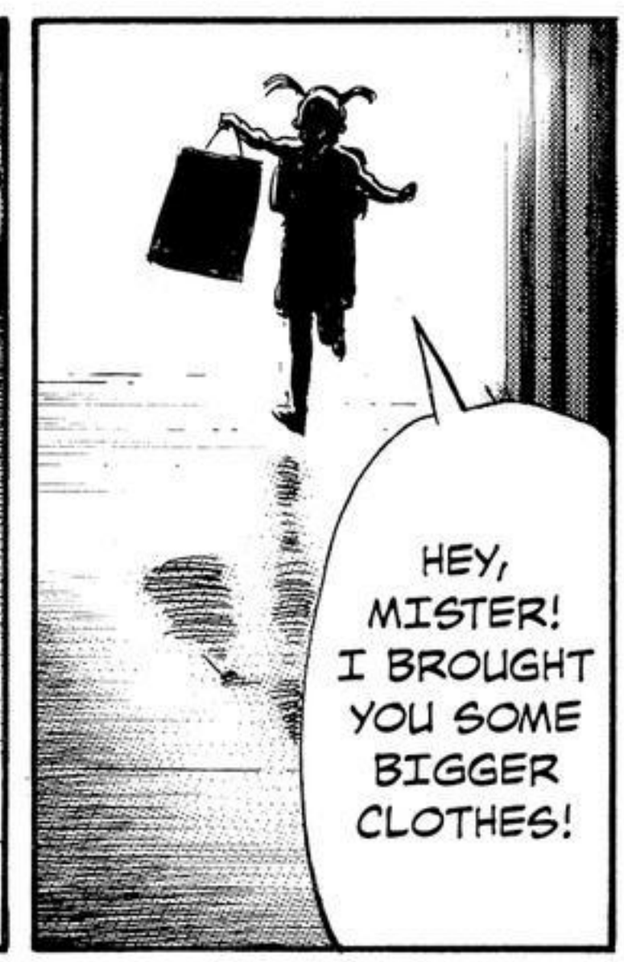
YOU SURE IT'S ALL RIGHT FOR YOU TO COME HERE EVERY DAY, URAN? WON'T YOUR FAMILY WORRY?

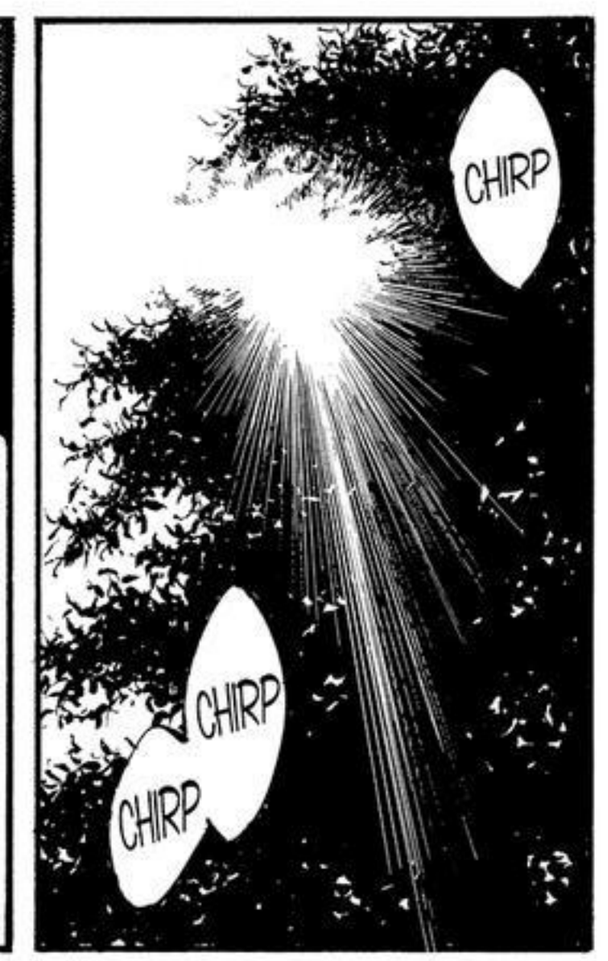


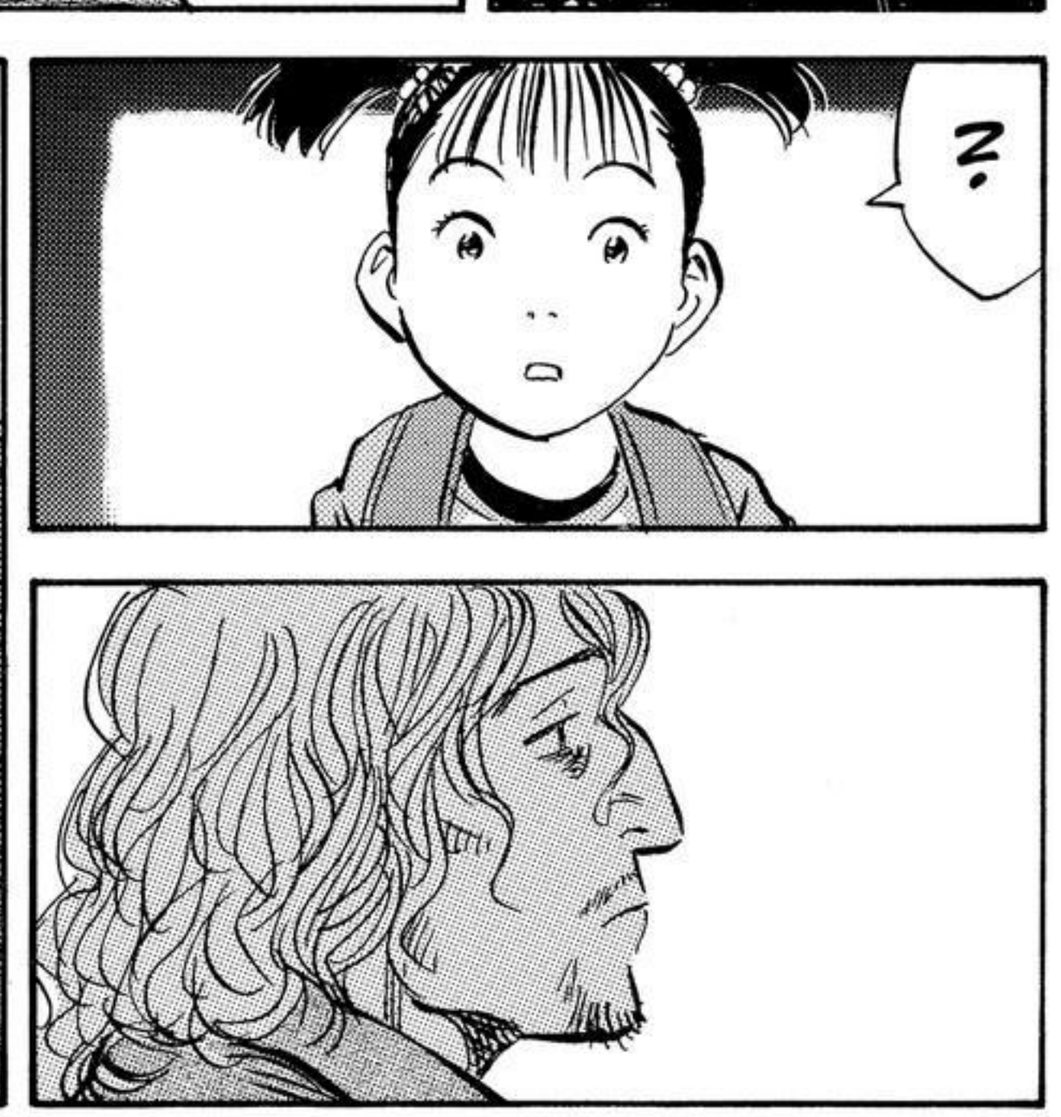
SWISH
SLAP

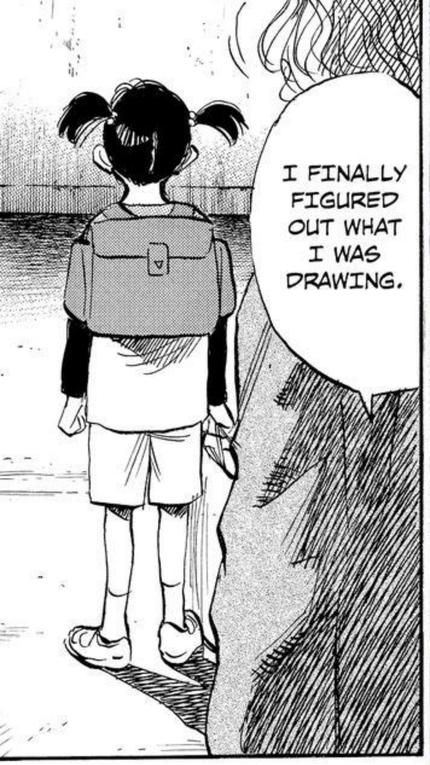
SWISH SWISH

SWASH

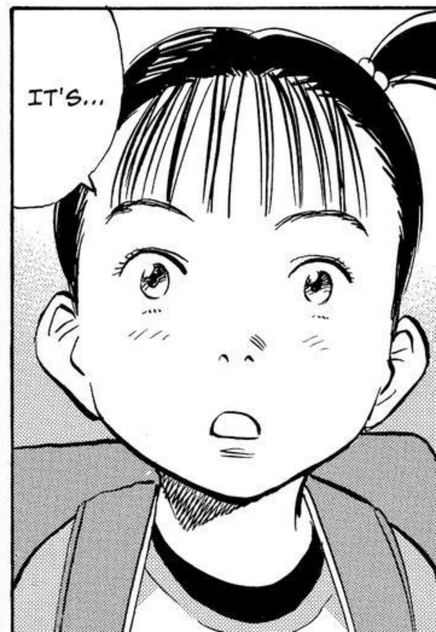







I FINALLY FIGURED OUT WHAT I WAS DRAWING.

...A FIELD OF FLOWERS...?


IT'S...

THIS BRINGS TEARS TO MY EYES...

MISTER ...

I'M SORRY I SAID YOU'RE A BAD ARTIST...

THANK YOU, URAN...

Act 22 PLUTO

TOKYO CITY

I JUST ARRIVED, PROFESSOR ABULLAH.

YOU MADE BETTER TIME THAN I THOUGHT YOU WOULD...

NO PROBLEM WITH CUSTOMS?

NO PROBLEM THERE.

AFTER ALL...

IT SHOULDN'T POSE YOU ANY DIFFICULTIES AT ALL...

...YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GAVE ME THIS BODY OF MINE.

I HAVE A JOB FOR YOU.

KLAK

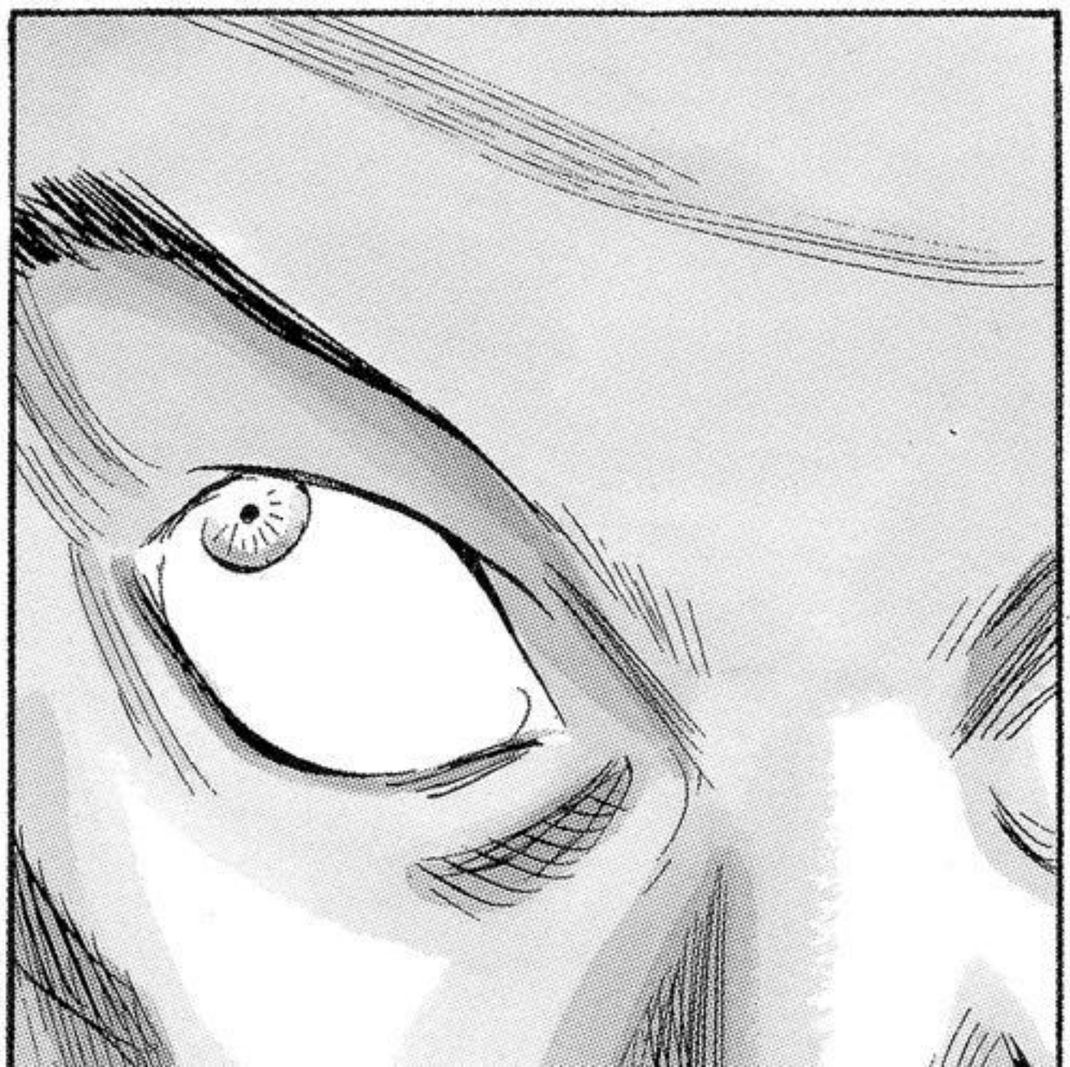
KLAK

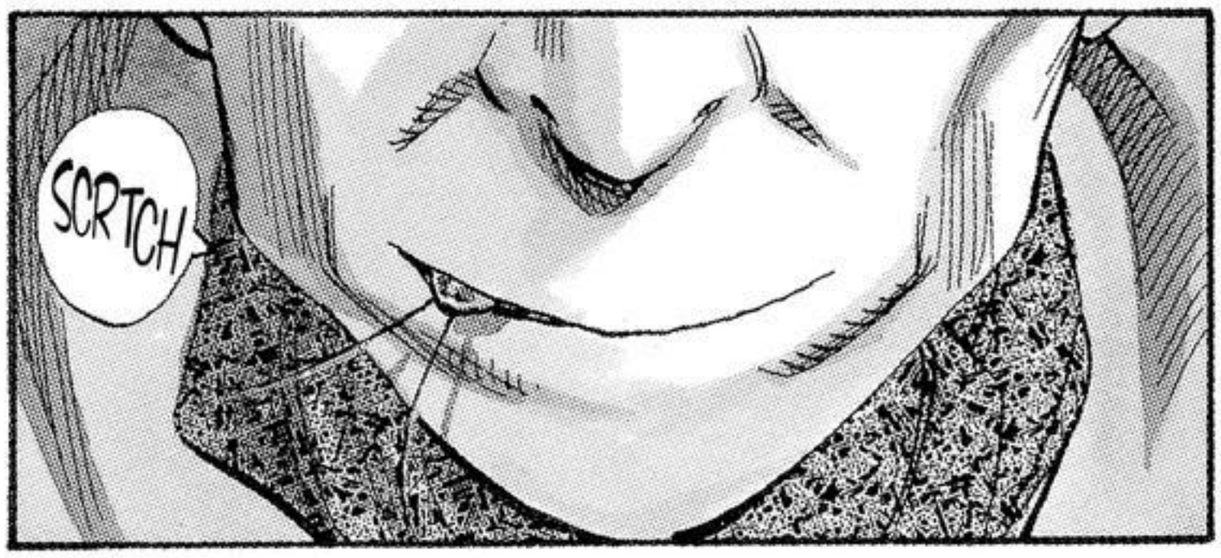
LEAVE IT TO ME, SIR.

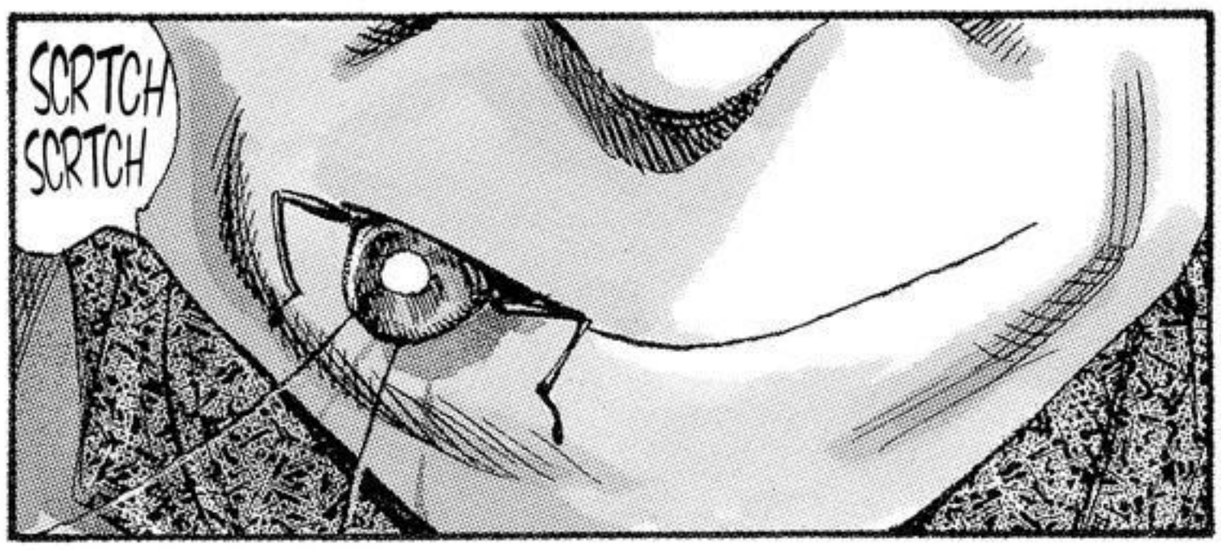
AFTER ALL...

...YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GAVE ME THIS BODY OF MINE.

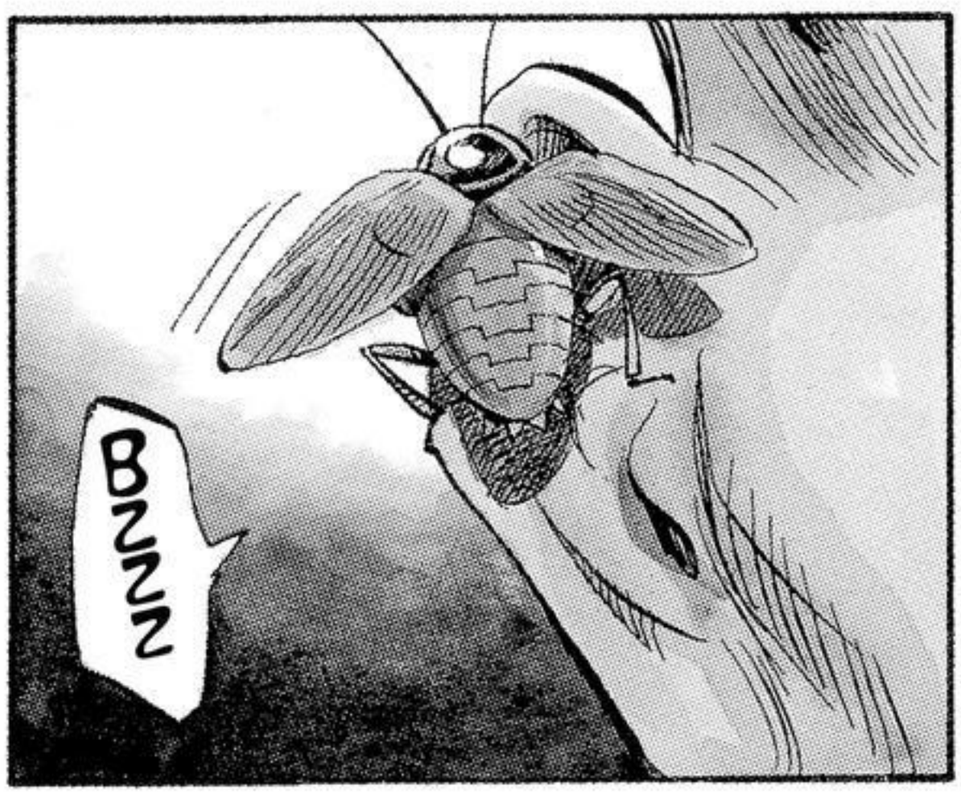
Act 22
PLUTO



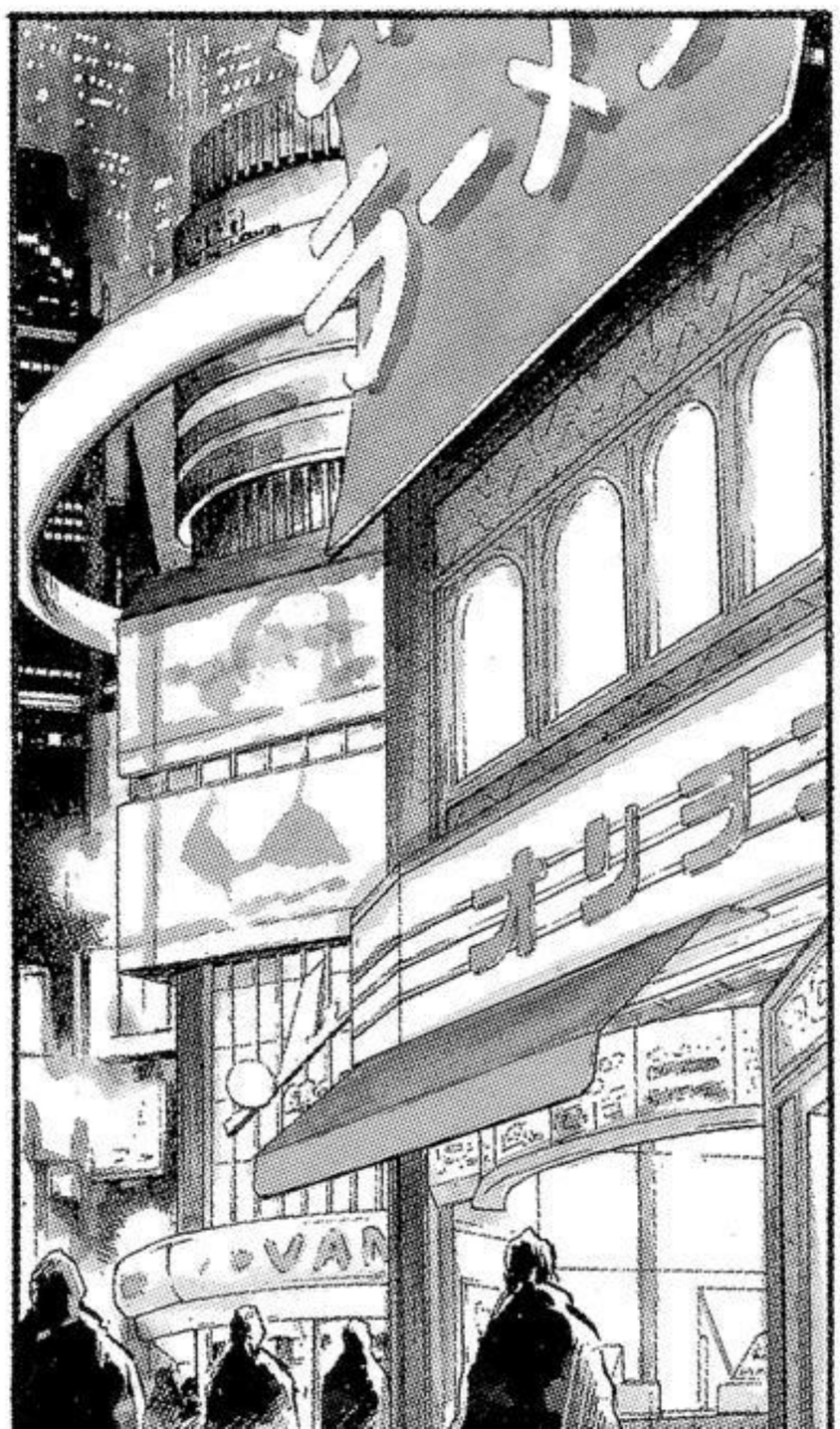

SCRTCH


SCRTCH
SCRTCH

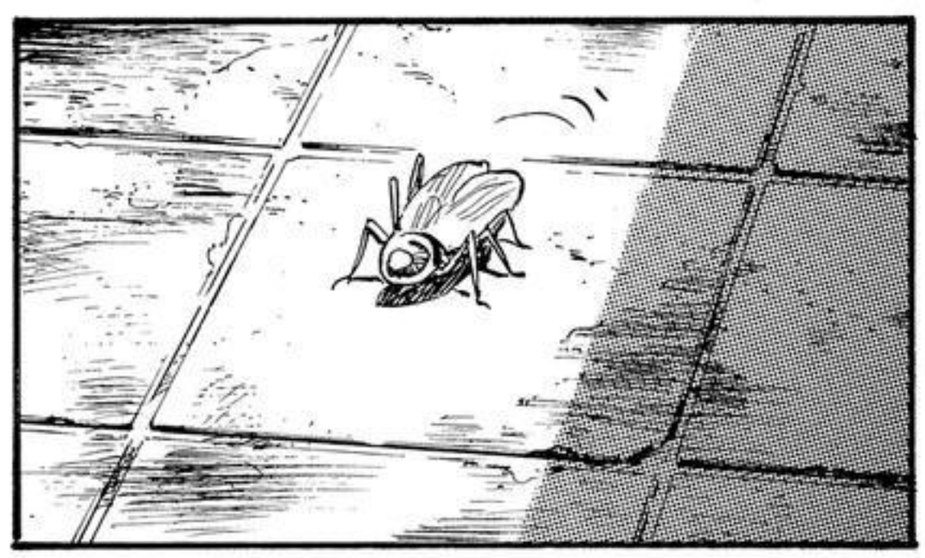
BLURP


BNNNN

SCRTCH
SCRTCH



BZZZ——



YAKI
NOODLE
IRASHAI!! IRASHAI!

...SO MANY BLASTED COCK-ROACHES TODAY...
YEP.

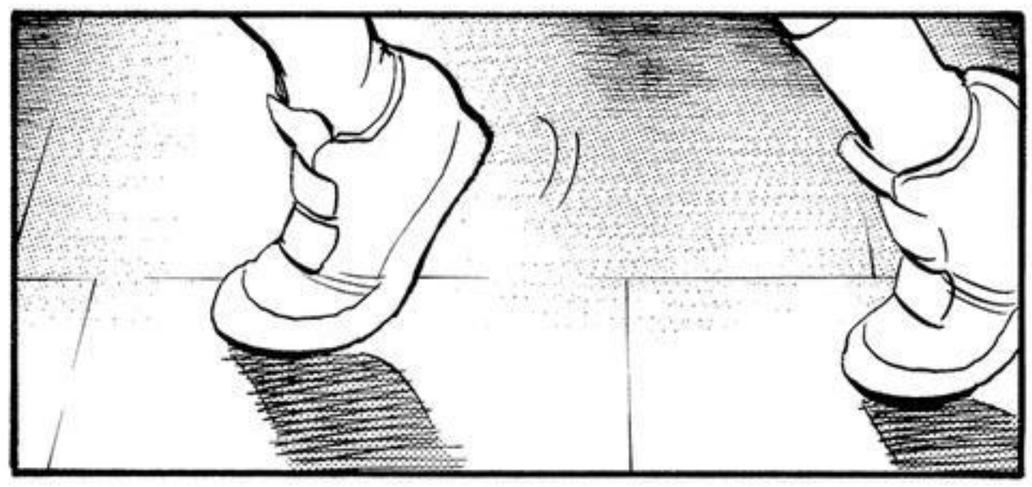
DAMMIT!
GOT AWAY!

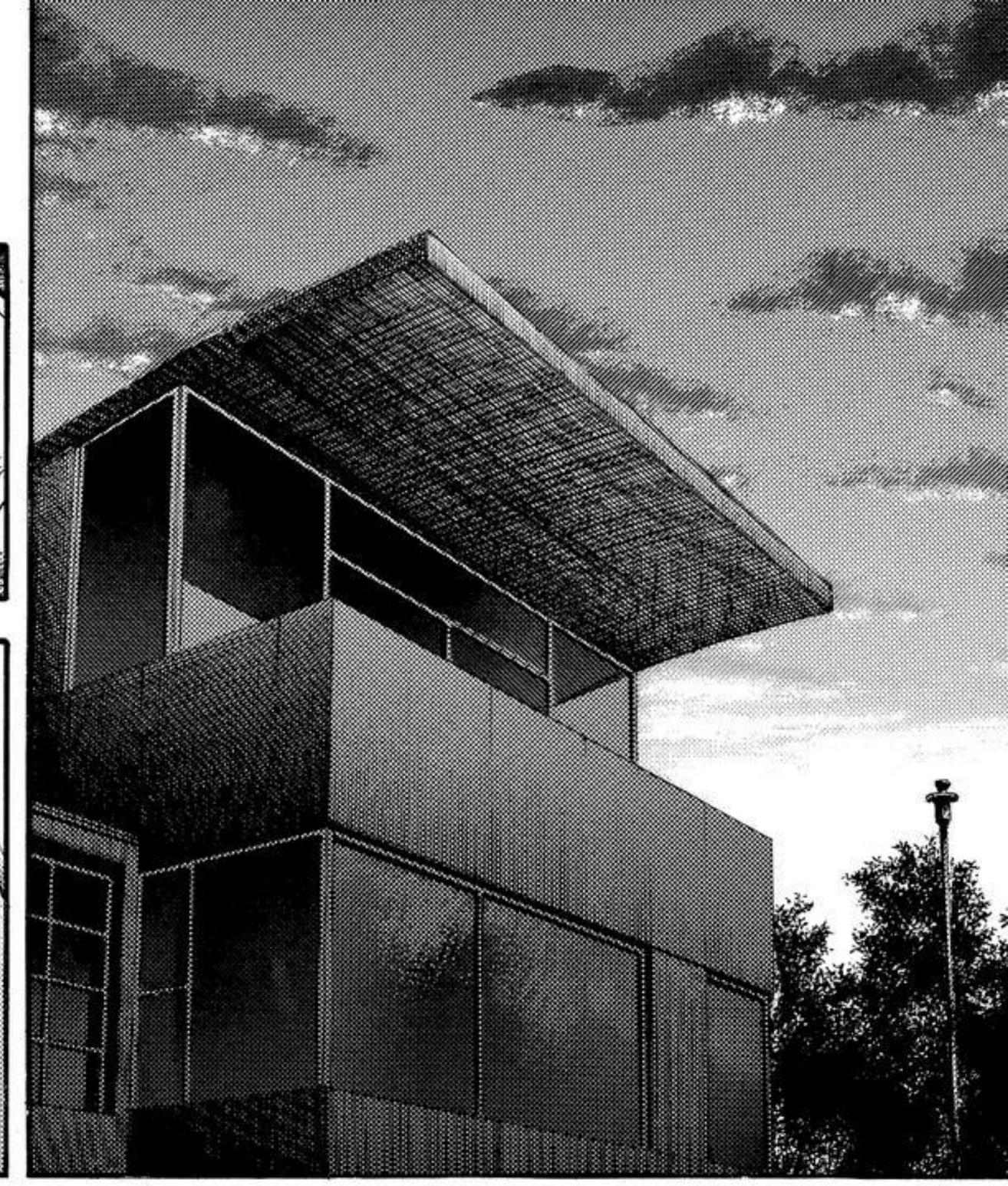
STOMP

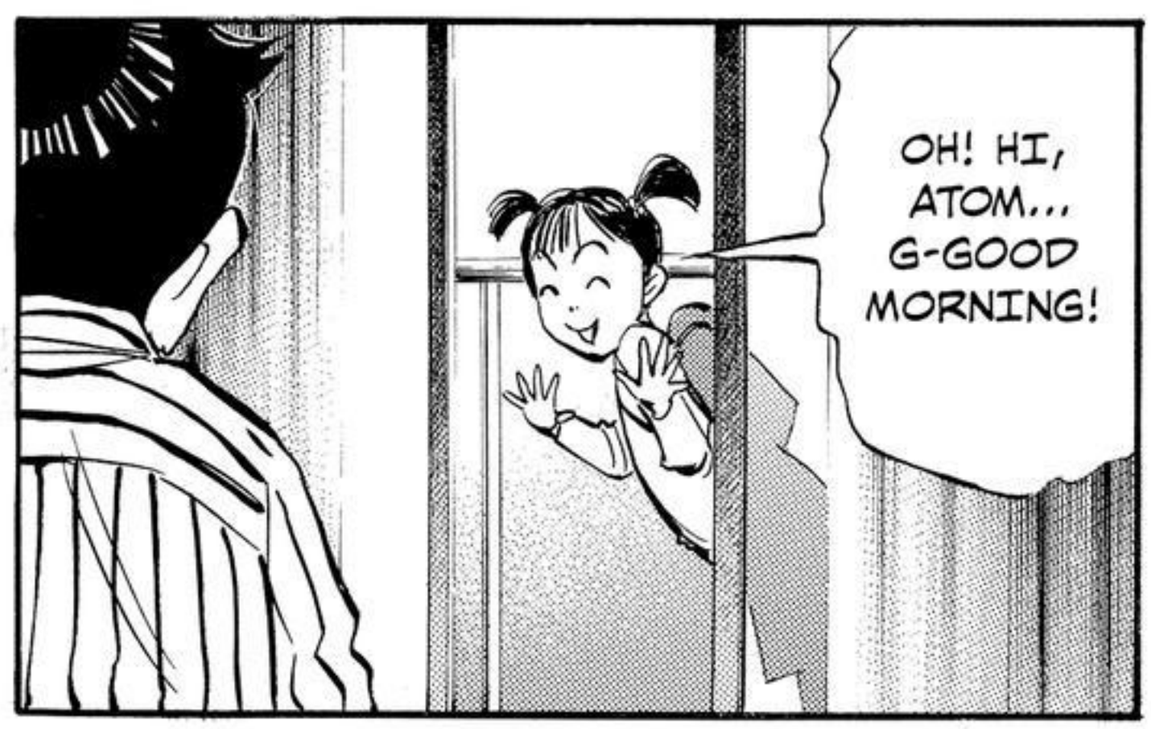
SHINJUKU

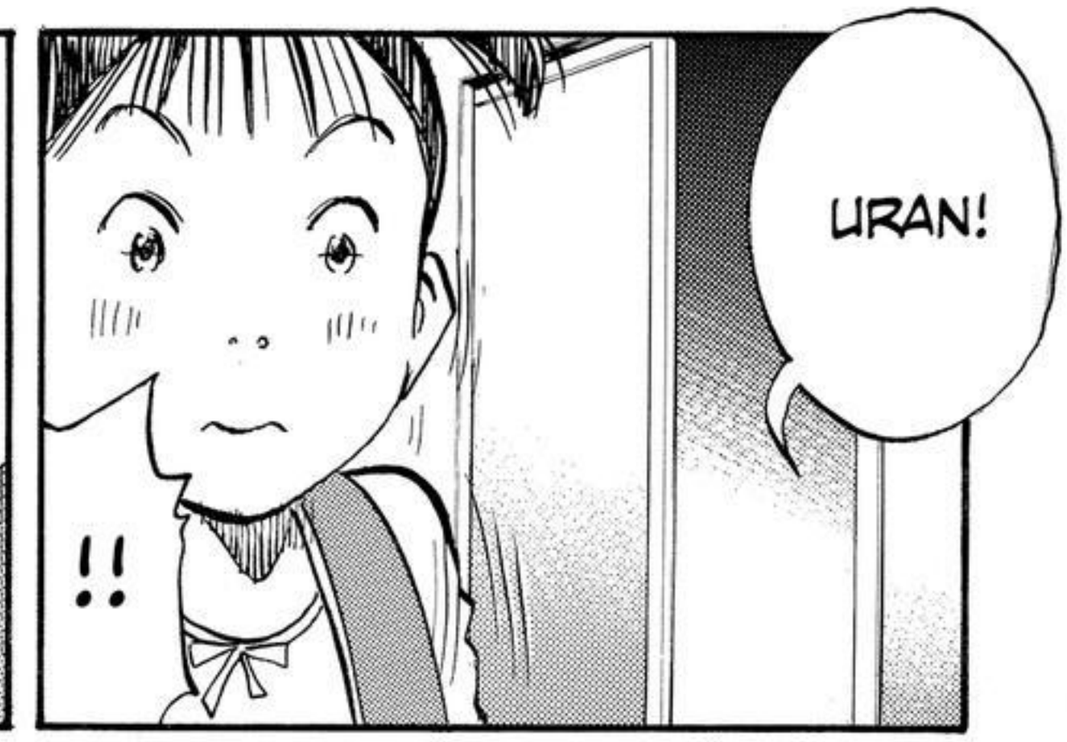
PLIP

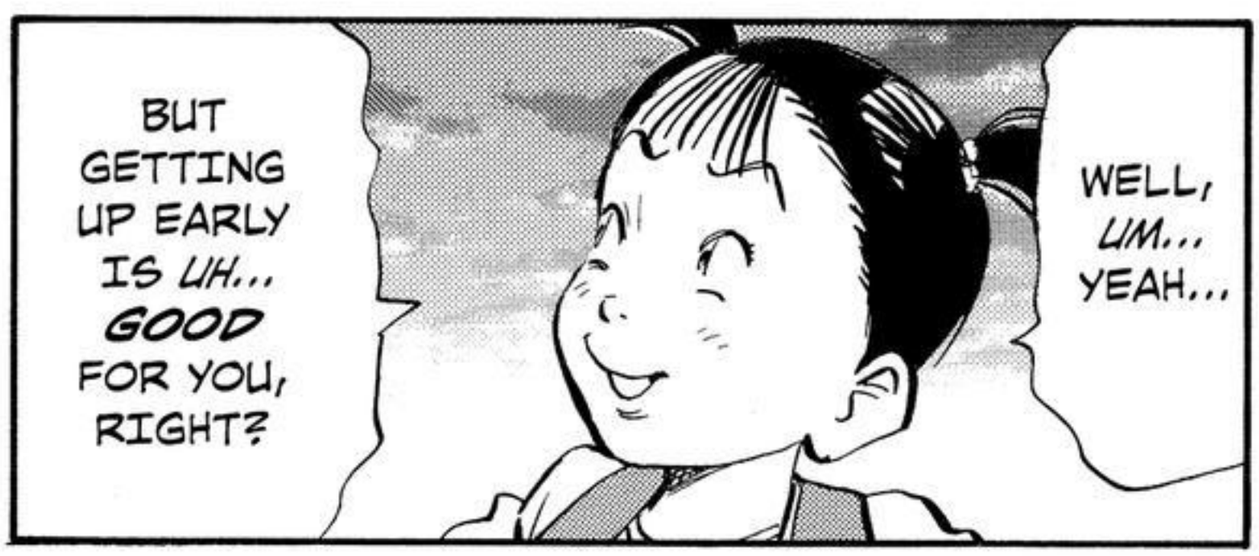
SCRTCH SCRTCH

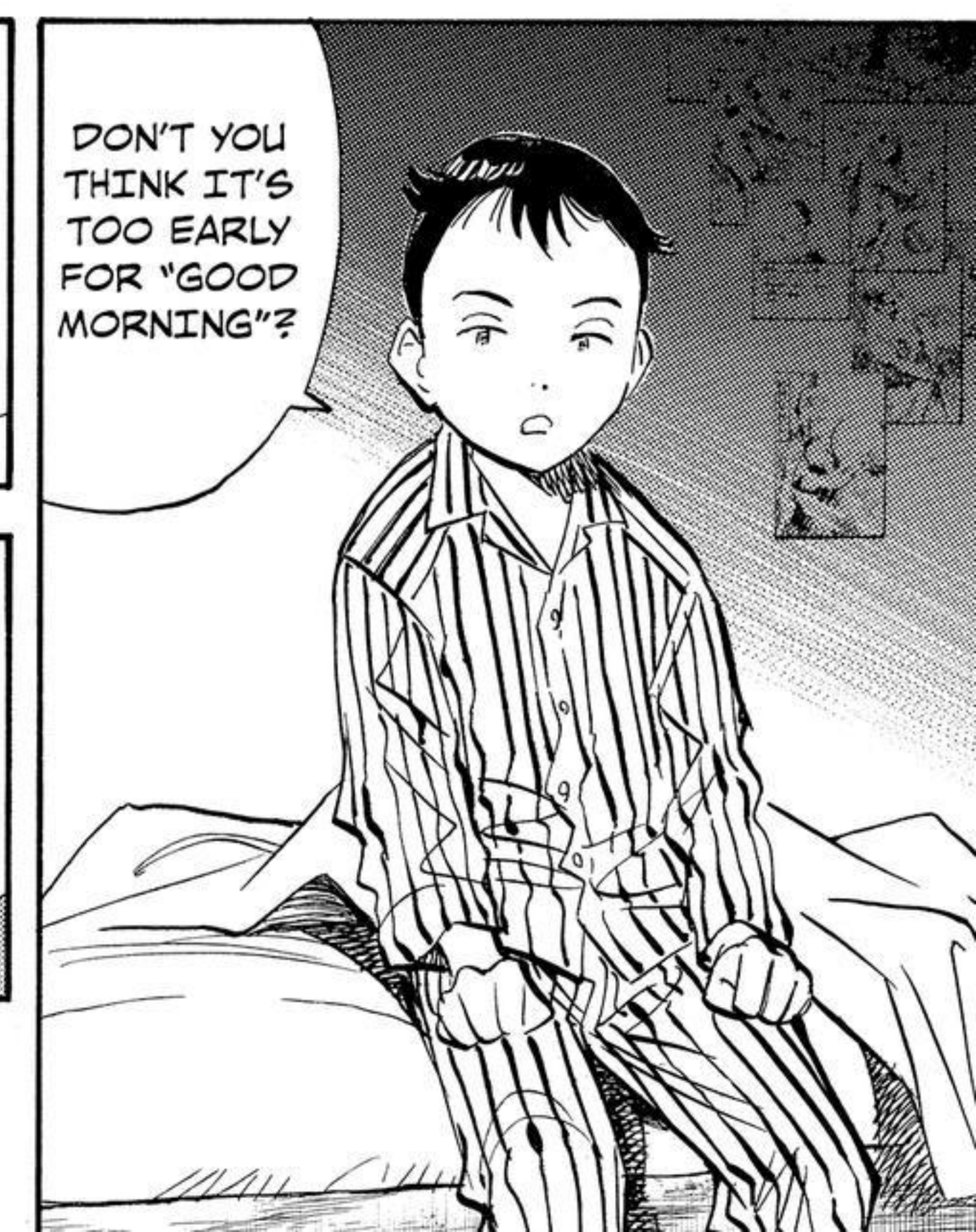




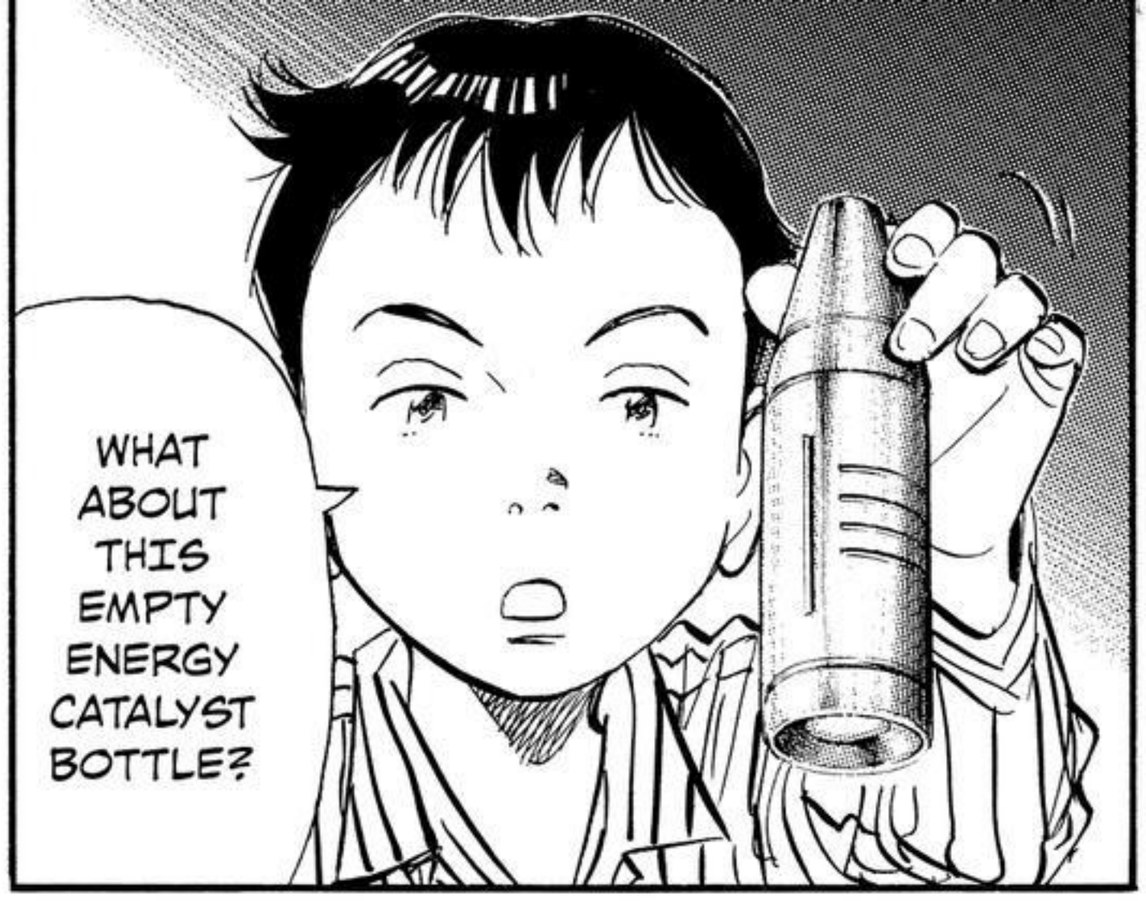

OH! HI, ATOM... G-GOOD MORNING!


URAN!
!!


BUT GETTING UP EARLY IS UH... GOOD FOR YOU, RIGHT?
WELL, UM... YEAH...

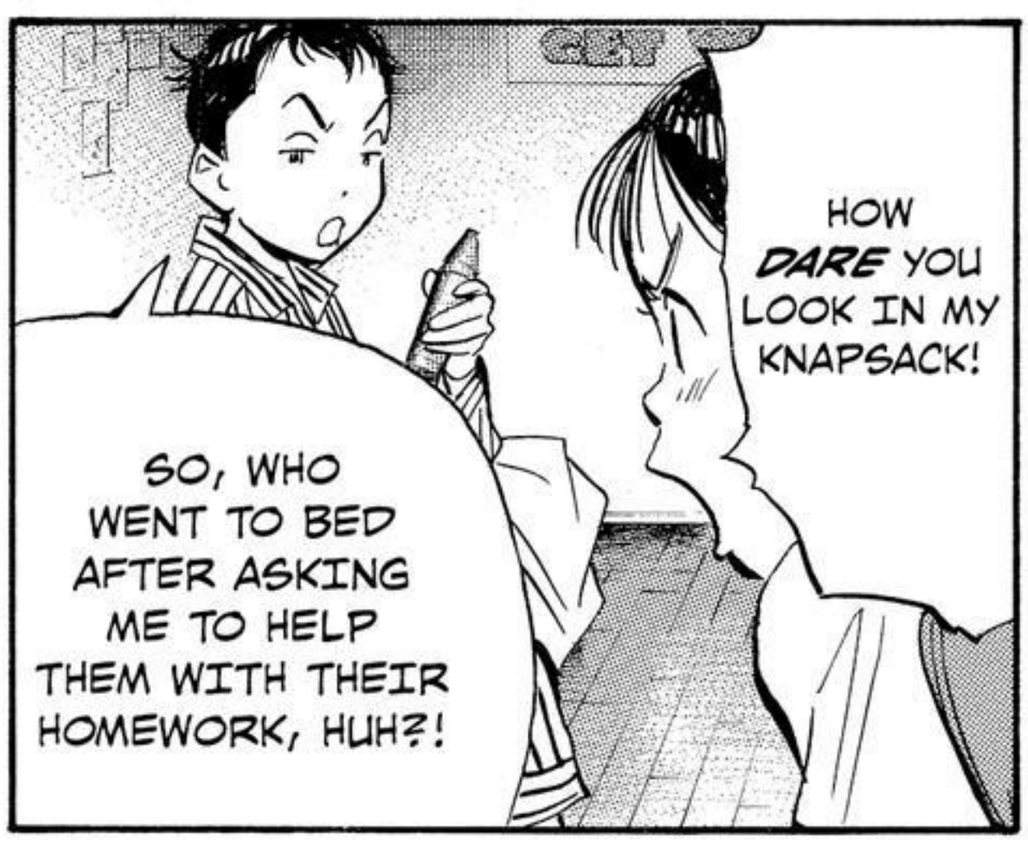

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TOO EARLY FOR "GOOD MORNING"?

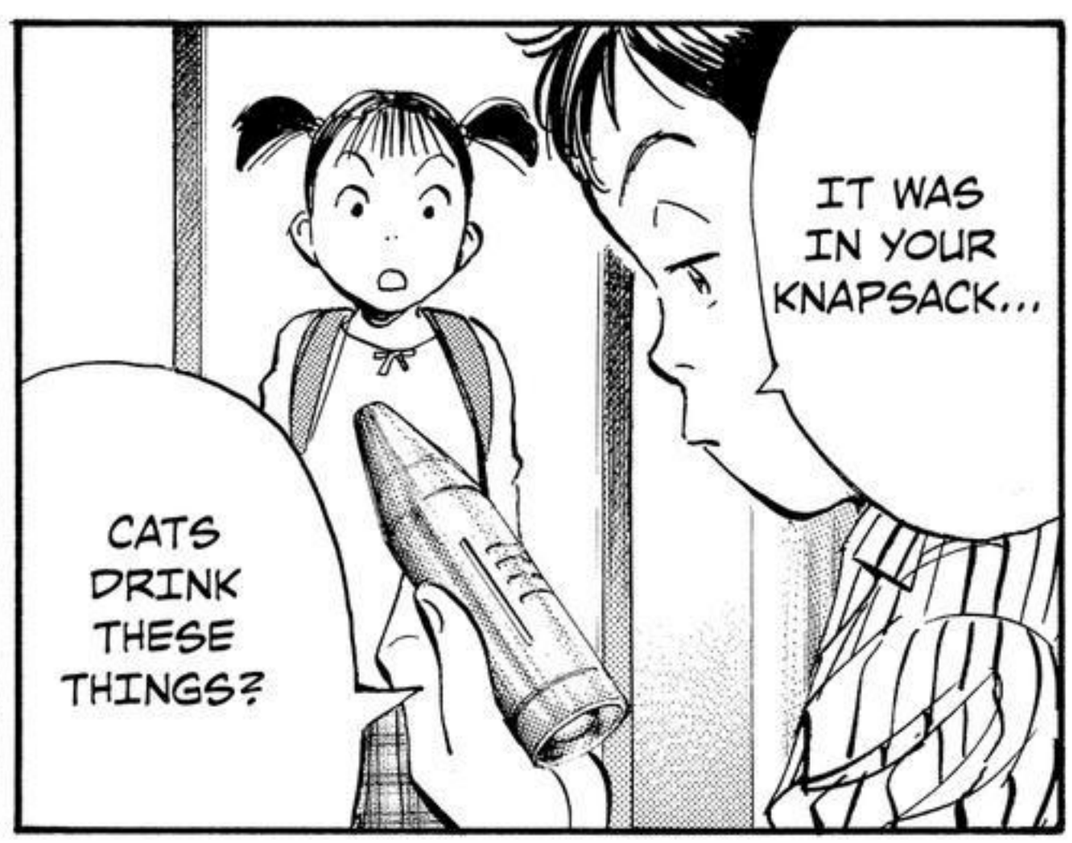
YOU FIND THAT THING YOU SENSED WAS CRYING?
GOING THERE AGAIN, EH?


WHAT ABOUT THIS EMPTY ENERGY CATALYST BOTTLE?

YEAH, THE CAT! IT WAS A CAT!
IT'S SSOO CUTE... IT PURRS WHEN I HOLD IT...

...


HOW DARE YOU LOOK IN MY KNAPSACK!
SO, WHO WENT TO BED AFTER ASKING ME TO HELP THEM WITH THEIR HOMEWORK, HUH?!


IT WAS IN YOUR KNAPSACK...
CATS DRINK THESE THINGS?

I CAN'T !!
WELL, IF IT'S BROKEN, YOU OUGHTA GET PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU TO FIX IT... WHAT'S THE MODEL NUMBER?

WELL...
IT'S A... ROBOT CAT...

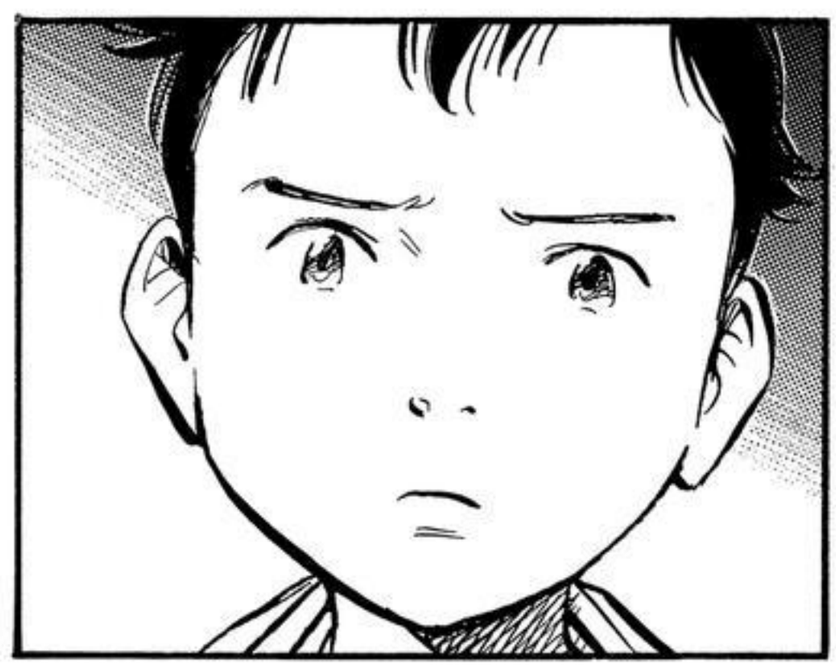
A ROBOT CAT?! YOU'D BETTER REPORT IT TO THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, URAN...

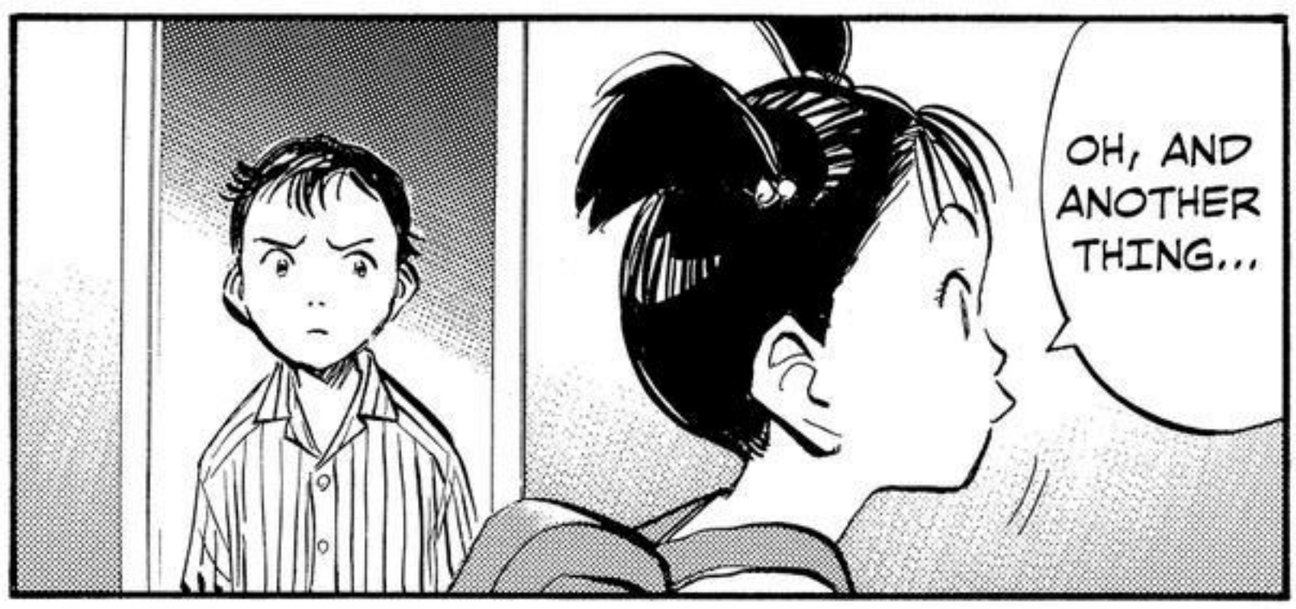
IT'S STILL TOO SCARED, ATOM!!
IT ONLY JUST GOT USED TO ME. I DON'T WANT IT TO RUN AWAY AGAIN!!

I DON'T KNOW ITS MODEL NUMBER.

YOU MEAN IT'S NOT MADE IN JAPAN? WHERE'S IT FROM?

JUST DON'T SAY ANYTHING 'TIL THEN, OKAY?
LOOK, I'LL SHOW HIM TO YOU AS SOON AS I THINK IT'S SAFE.




OH, AND ANOTHER THING...

AND YOU'LL NEVER GET A GIRL-FRIEND!
YOU KEEP PEEKING IN LADIES' BAGS, ATOM...

SO I'LL JUST GO AND CHECK ON HIM, OKAY?
...

...

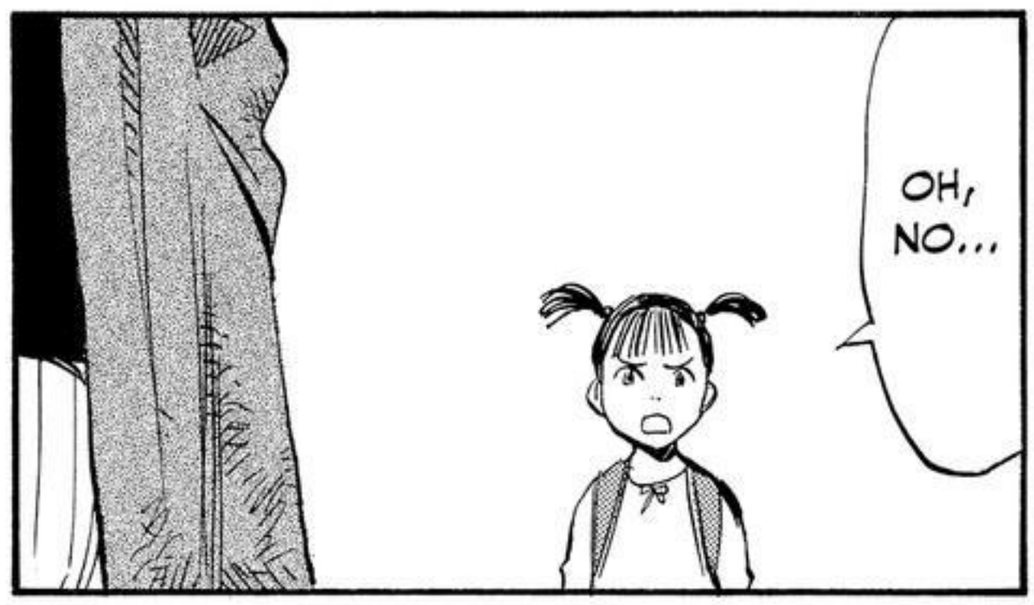
MISTER ...!

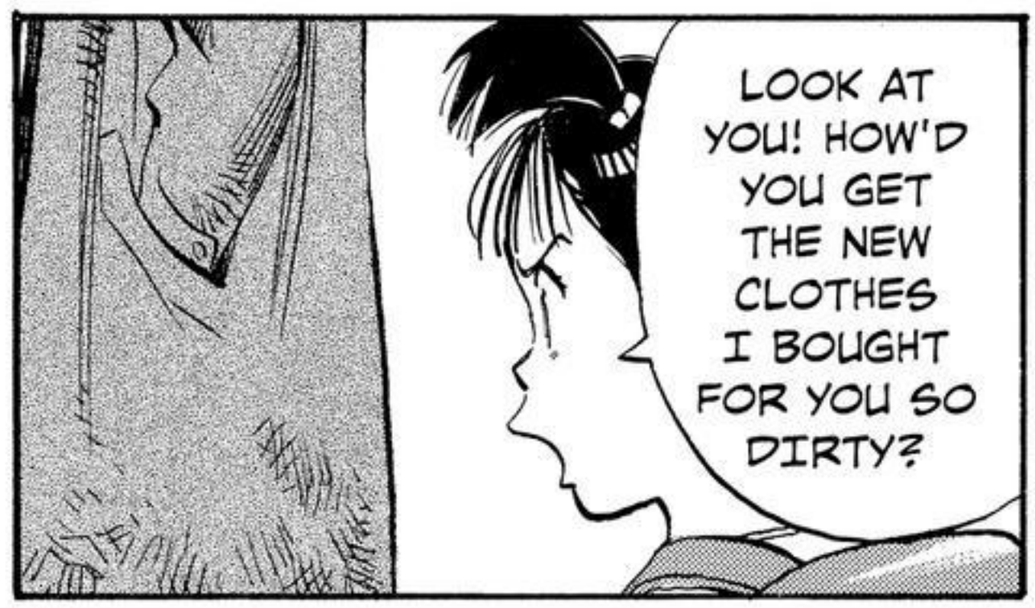
再開発地区
REDEVELOPMENT ZONE
立入禁止
NO TRESPASSING

UH-OH... I HOPE HE HASN'T RUN OFF FOR GOOD...

YOO HOO, MISTER! WHERE ARE YOU?

M- MISTER...

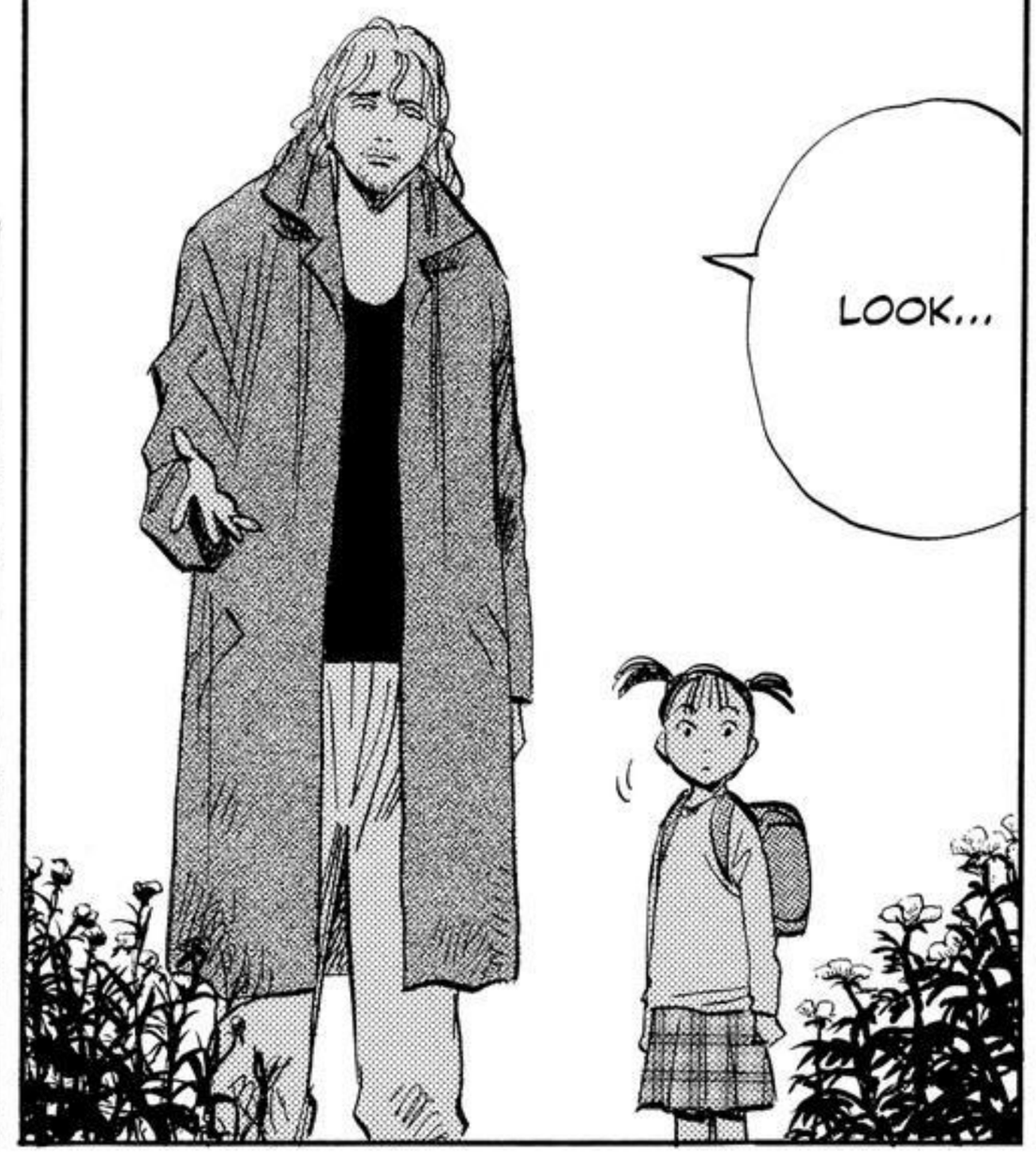

OH, NO...


LOOK AT YOU! HOW'D YOU GET THE NEW CLOTHES I BOUGHT FOR YOU SO DIRTY?

I KNOW WHAT I WAS BORN TO DO...
I KNOW...

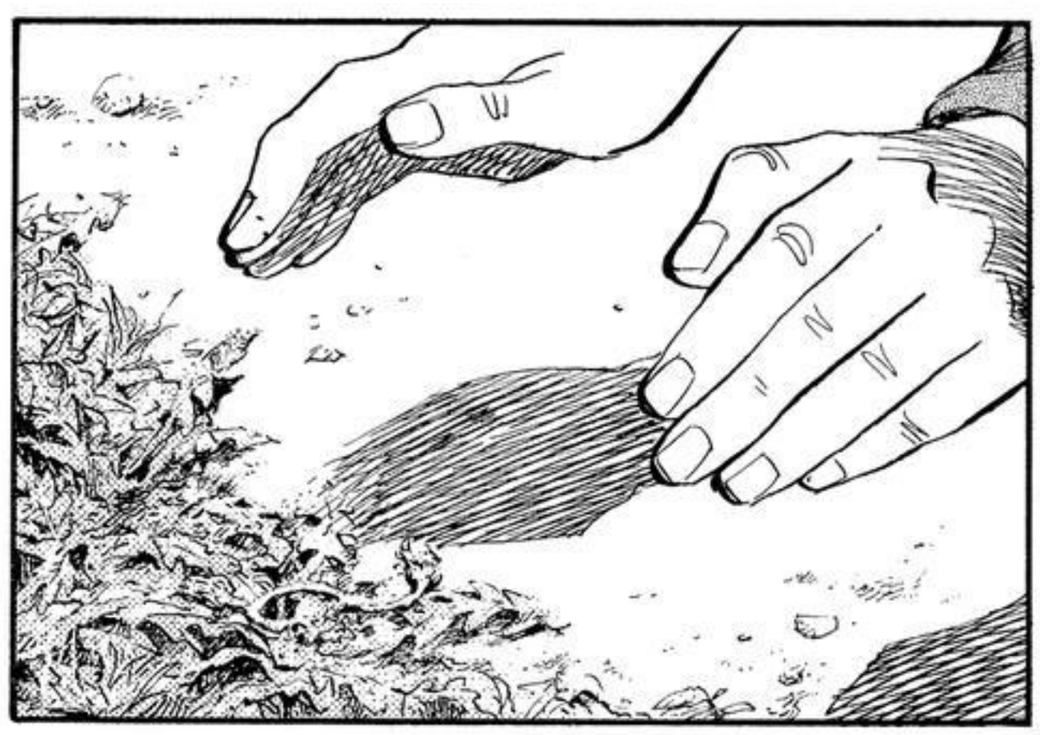
ARE YOU *LISTENING* TO ME?

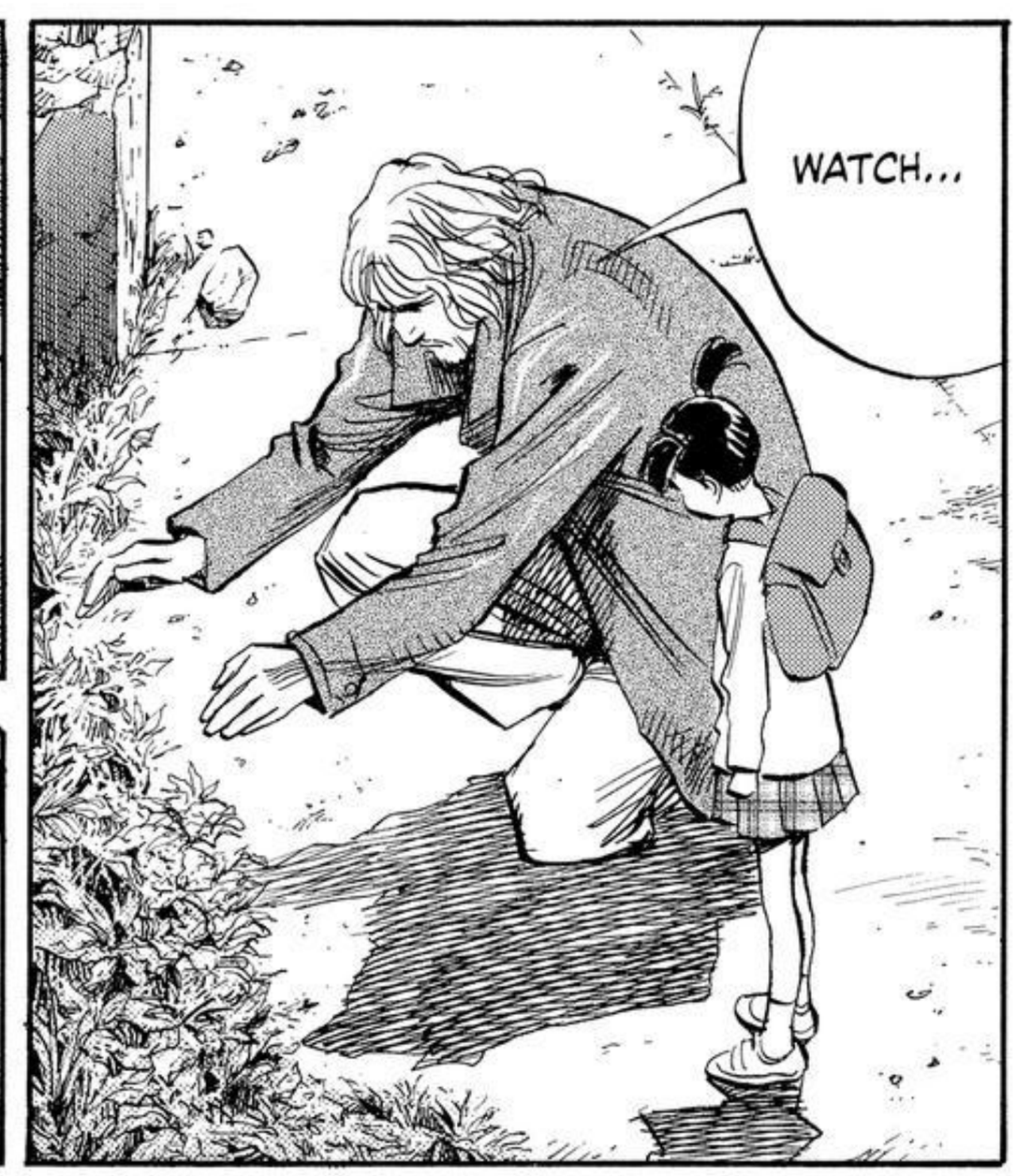
WOW...


LOOK...

HUH?

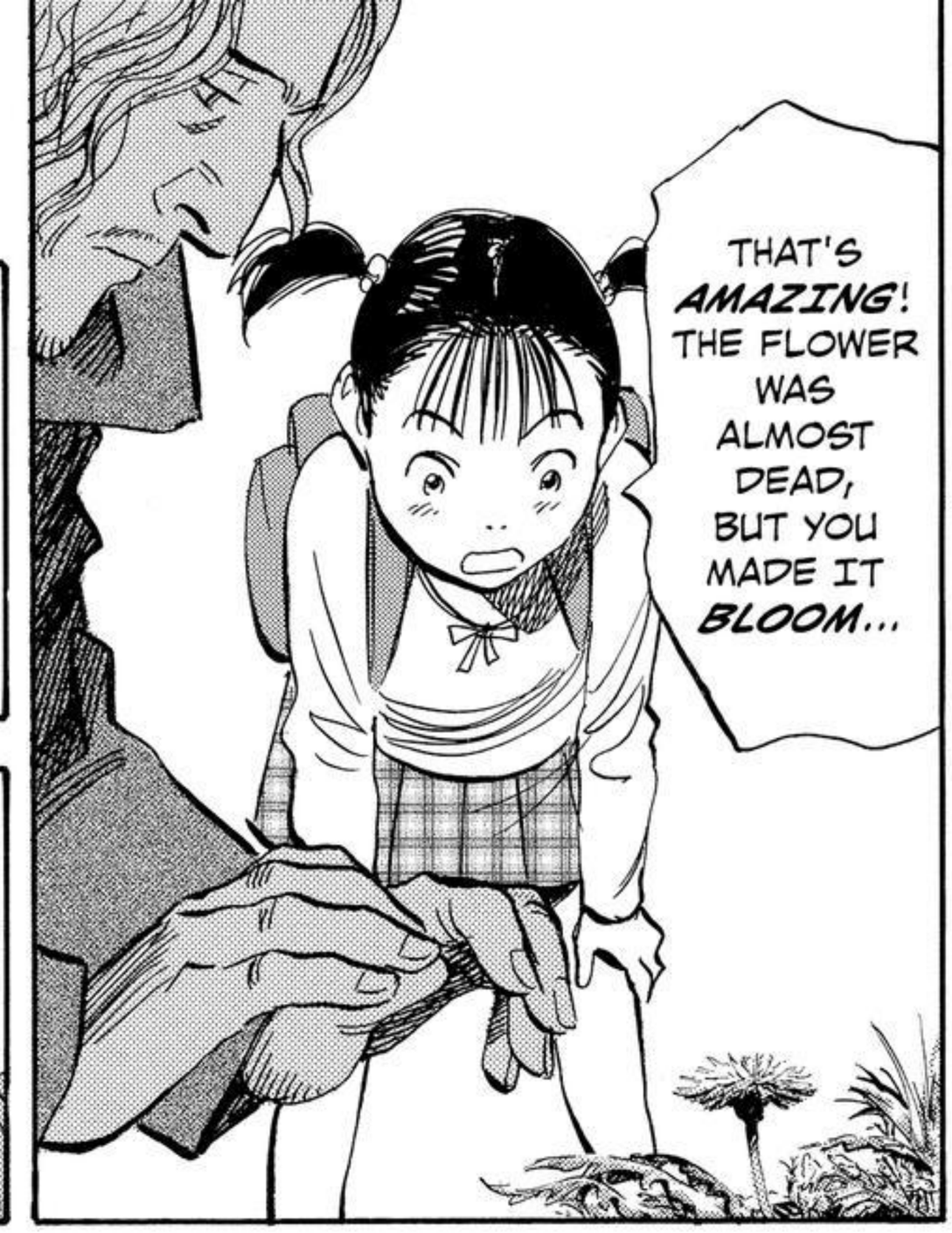
WHERE'D ALL THESE FLOWERS COME FROM...?





WHAT KIND OF POWER DO YOU HAVE, ANYWAY...?

IT'S...


THAT'S AMAZING! THE FLOWER WAS ALMOST DEAD, BUT YOU MADE IT BLOOM...

IT'S MY TRUE POWER...

YOUR HIDDEN POWER *MADE* YOU PAINT...

SO *THAT'S* WHY YOU PAINTED ALL THIS STUFF.

YOU CAN BREATHE LIFE INTO THINGS!!
THAT'S GREAT!!

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT, BUT THERE WERE ALWAYS TRACES OF THAT IMAGE IN MY MEMORY...
HIDDEN POWER...

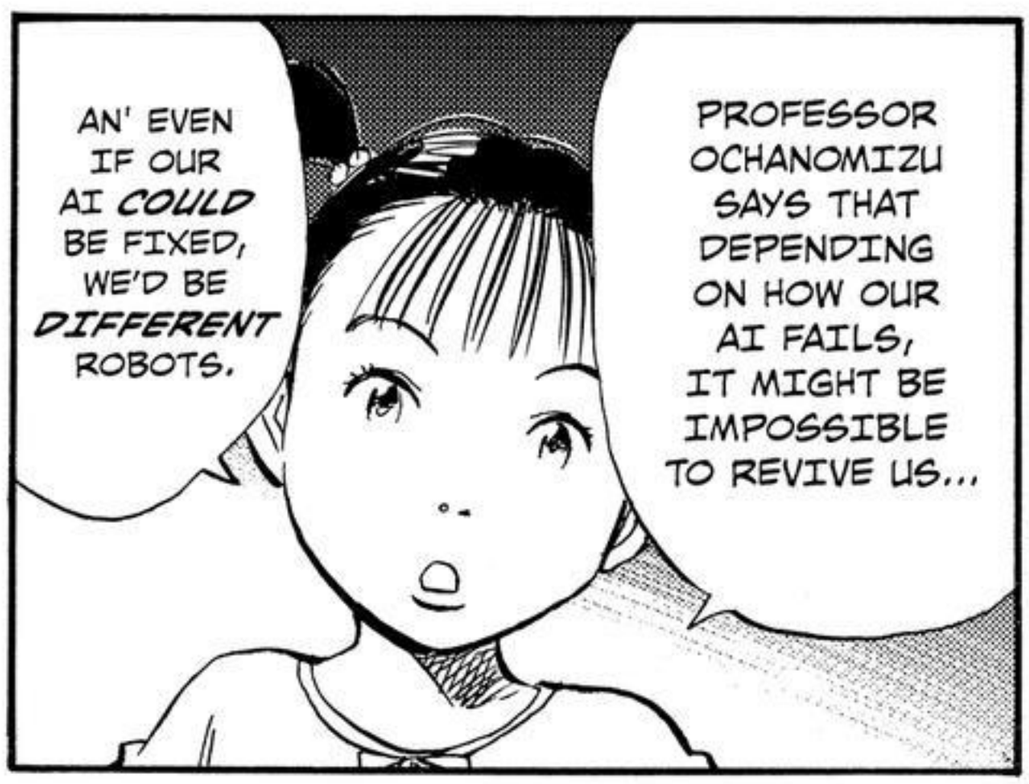
...MAY DIE, URAN...
BUT EVEN WE...

LIFE...

WELL... YEAH...

REMEMBER? YOU SAID I'D DIE IF I DIDN'T GET HELP...
RIGHT. YOU SAVED ME, EARLIER...

DIE?


AN' EVEN IF OUR AI *COULD* BE FIXED, WE'D BE *DIFFERENT* ROBOTS.
PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU SAYS THAT DEPENDING ON HOW OUR AI FAILS, IT MIGHT BE IMPOSSIBLE TO REVIVE US...

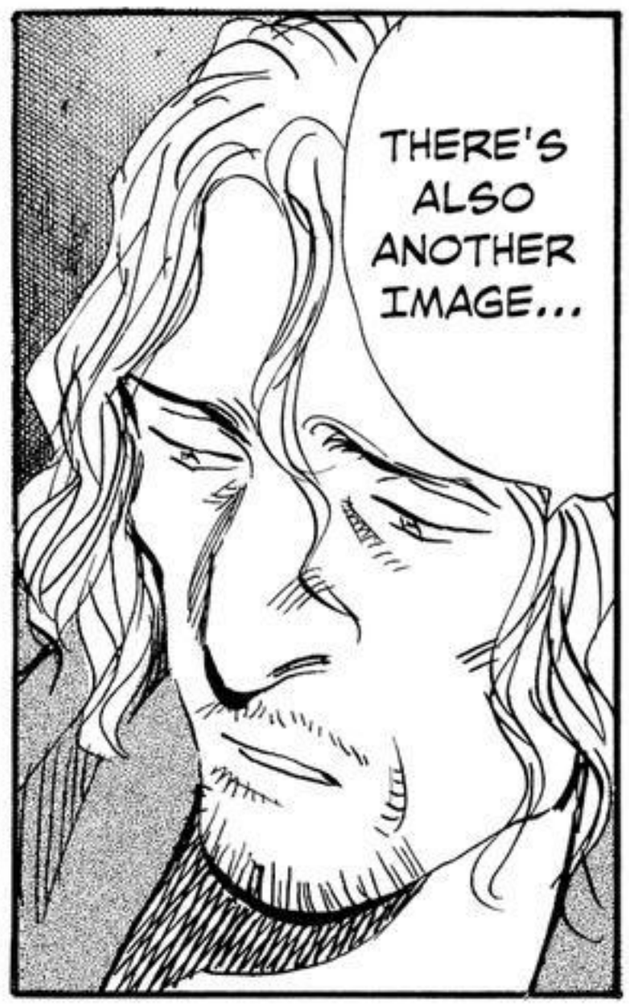
...BUT THAT'D JUST BE YOUR AI BREAKING DOWN, RIGHT?

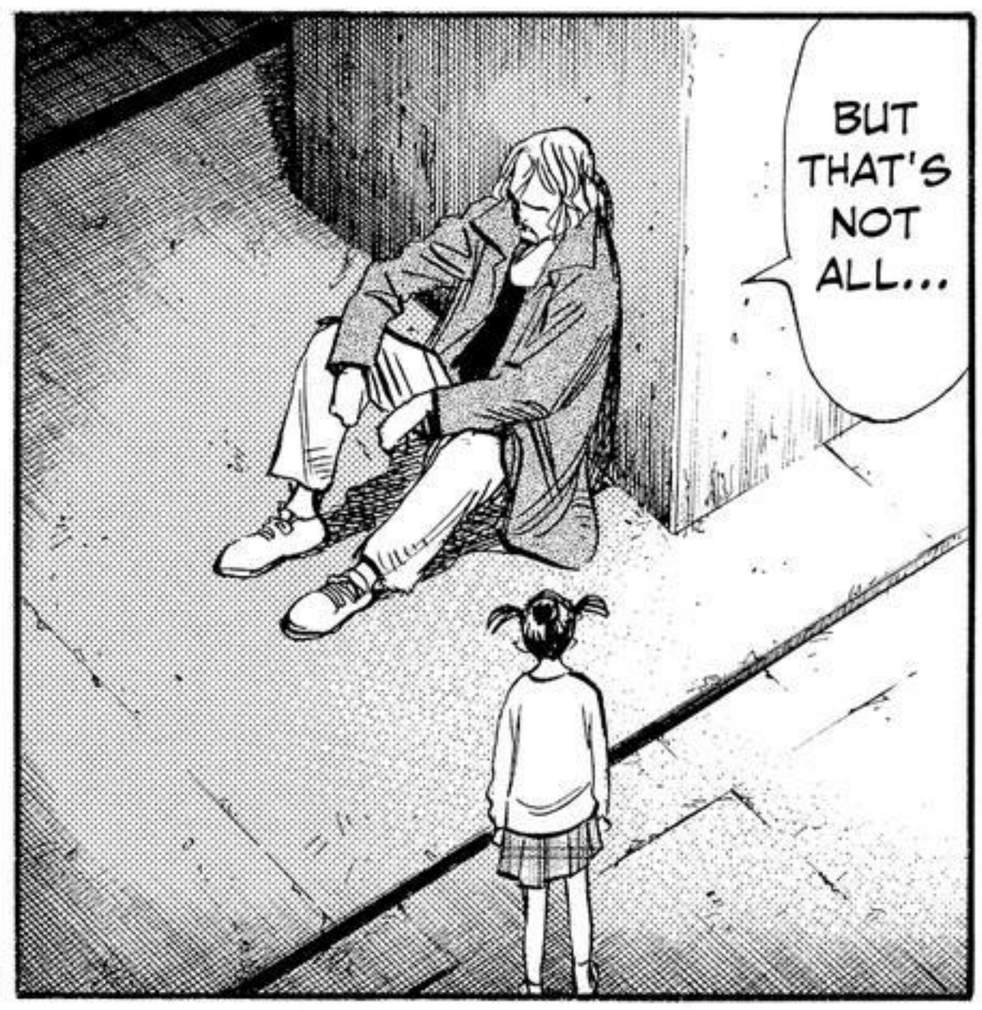
WHAT IT *REALLY* MEANS TO DIE...
I WONDER...

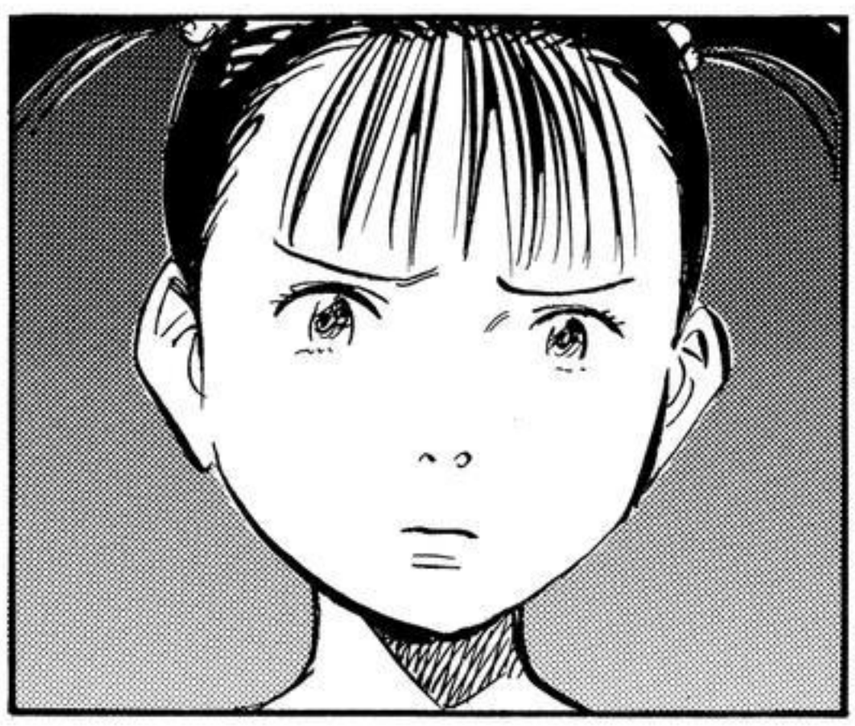
YEAH, I GUESS...

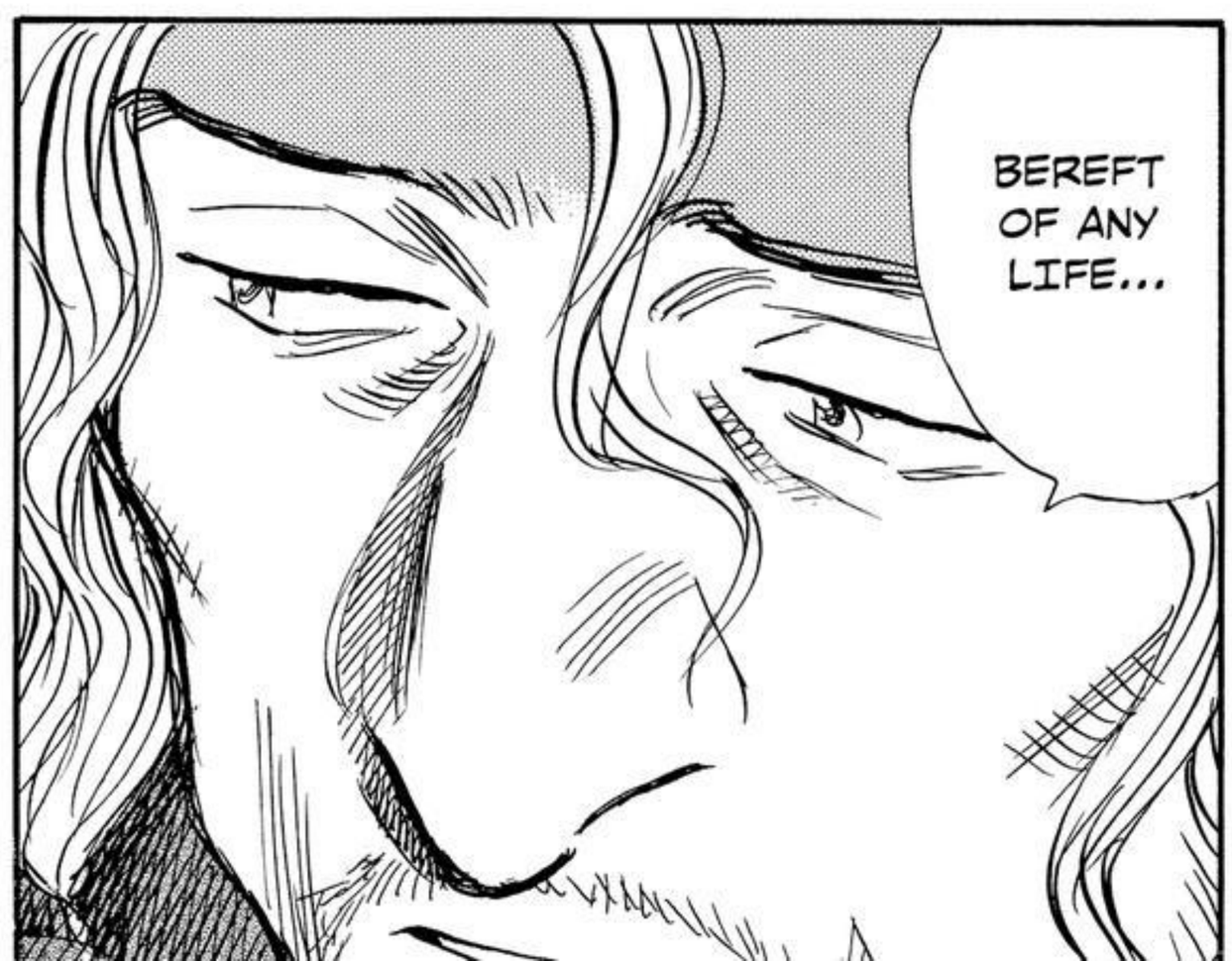
YOU MEAN, THAT'S WHAT "DYING" IS?

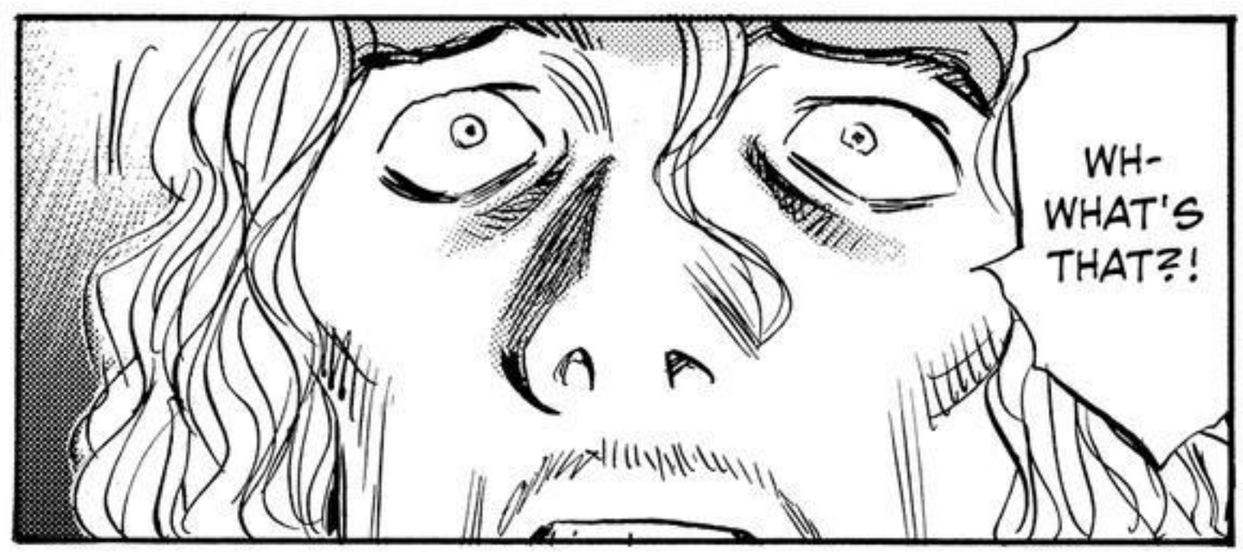
THIS FIELD OF FLOWERS REPRESENTS LIFE...











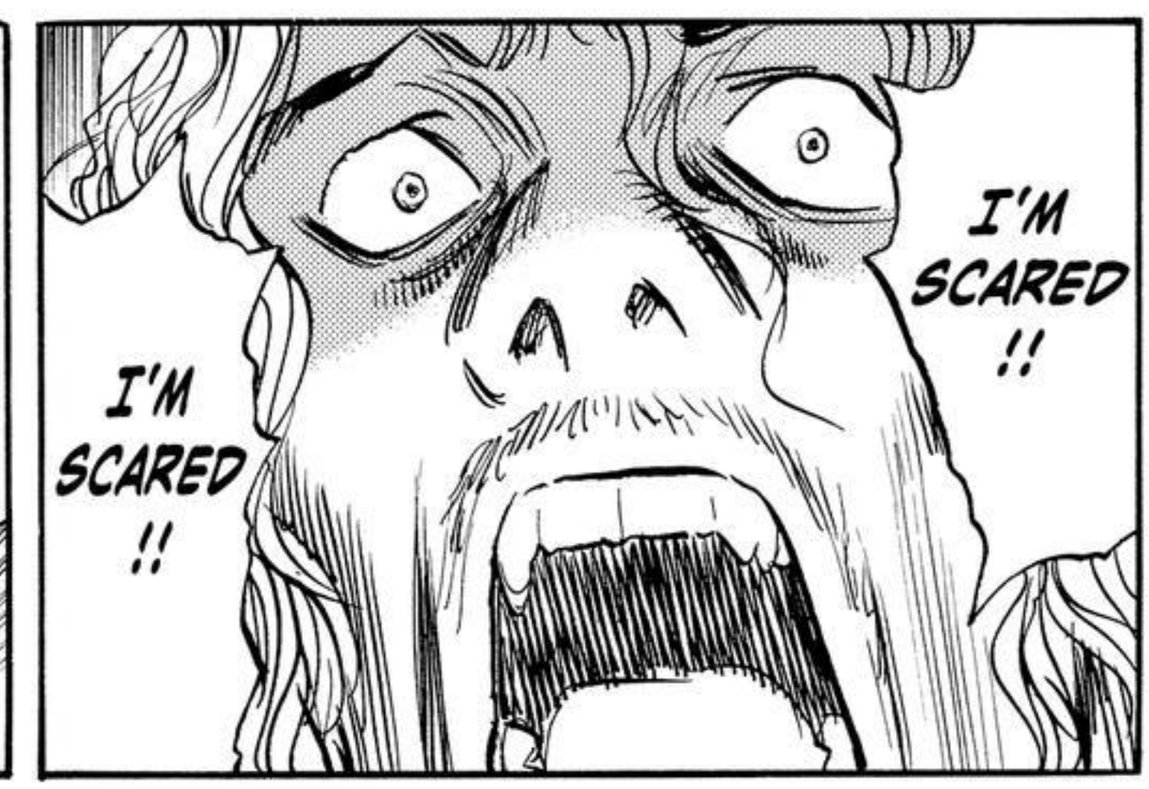
WHAT IS IT?

WHAT'S THAT THING? IT'S SO HUGE!

MISTER!!
I'M SCARED! I'M SCARED !!

WHAT IS IT?!!
I... I'M AFRAID !!

MISTER!!


I'M SCARED !!
I'M SCARED !!

IT'S ALL RIGHT... DON'T BE AFRAID...
IT'S ALL RIGHT, MISTER... I'M HERE WITH YOU...

GASP
GASP

GASP
GASP

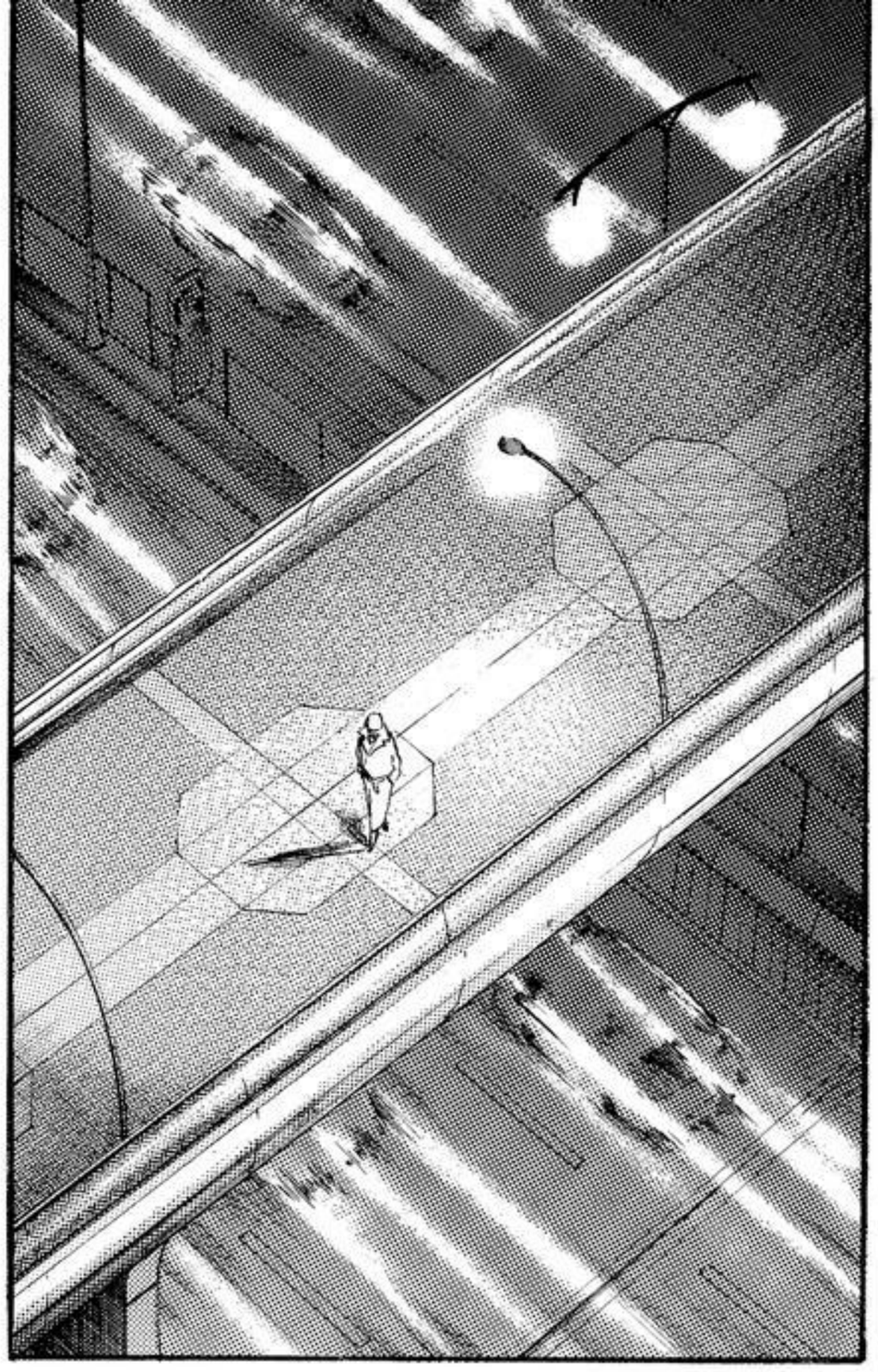
まるー!...

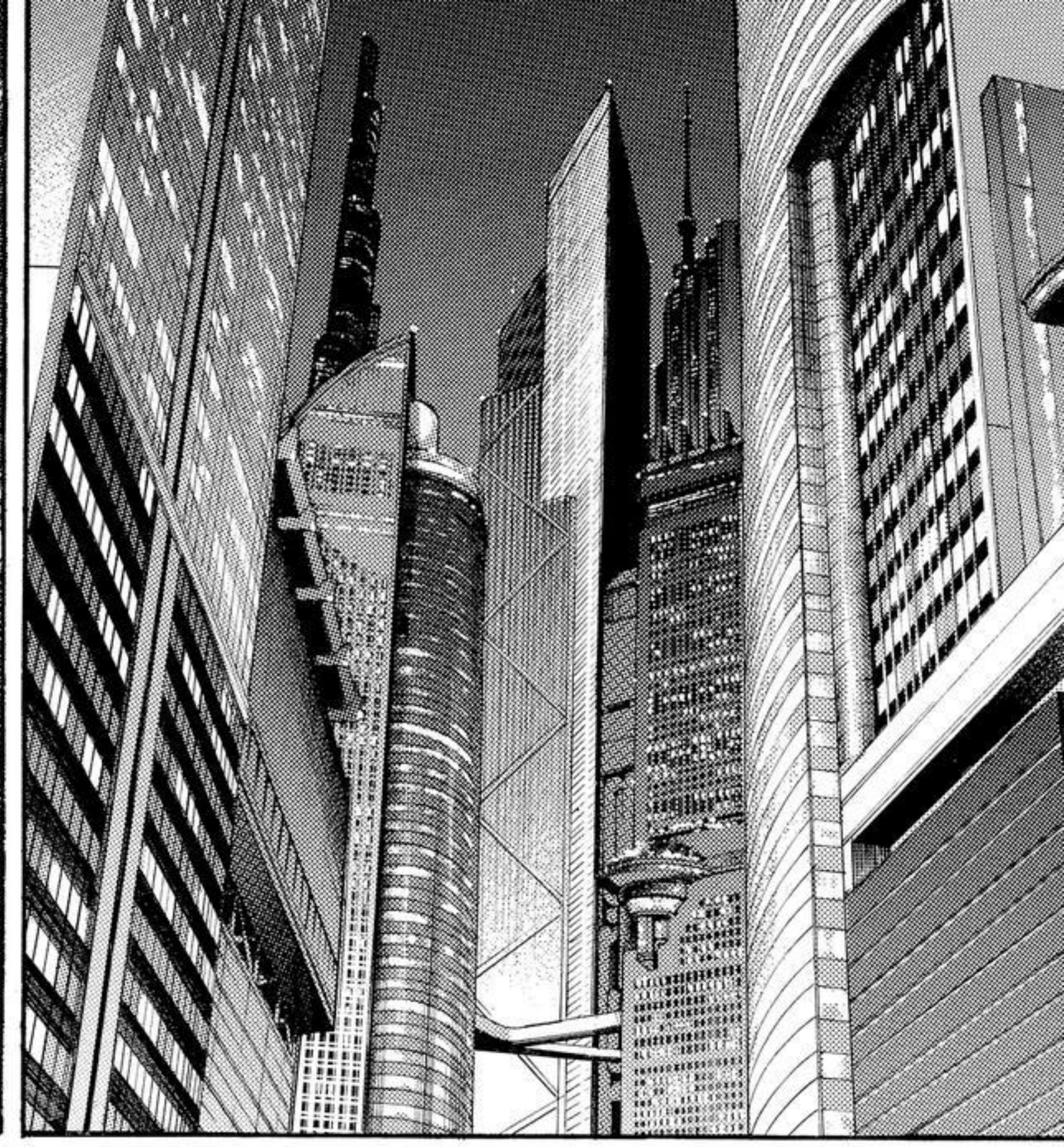
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE SCARED OF...

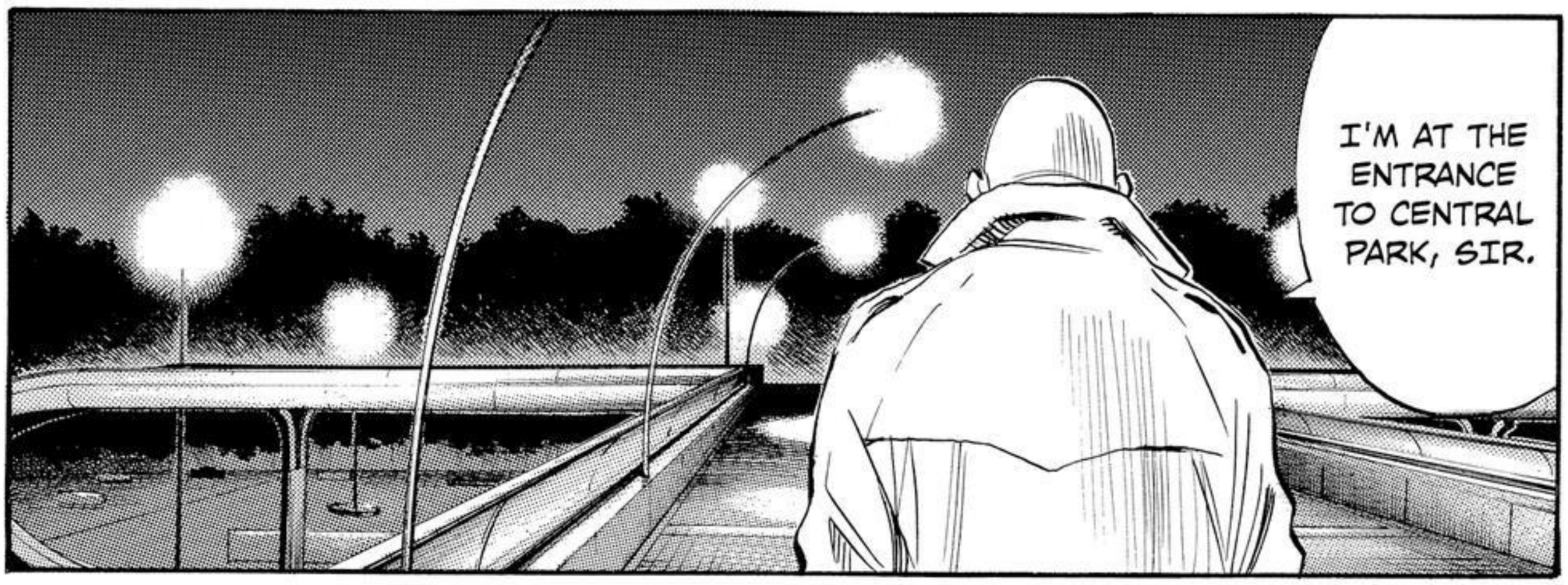
BORA...

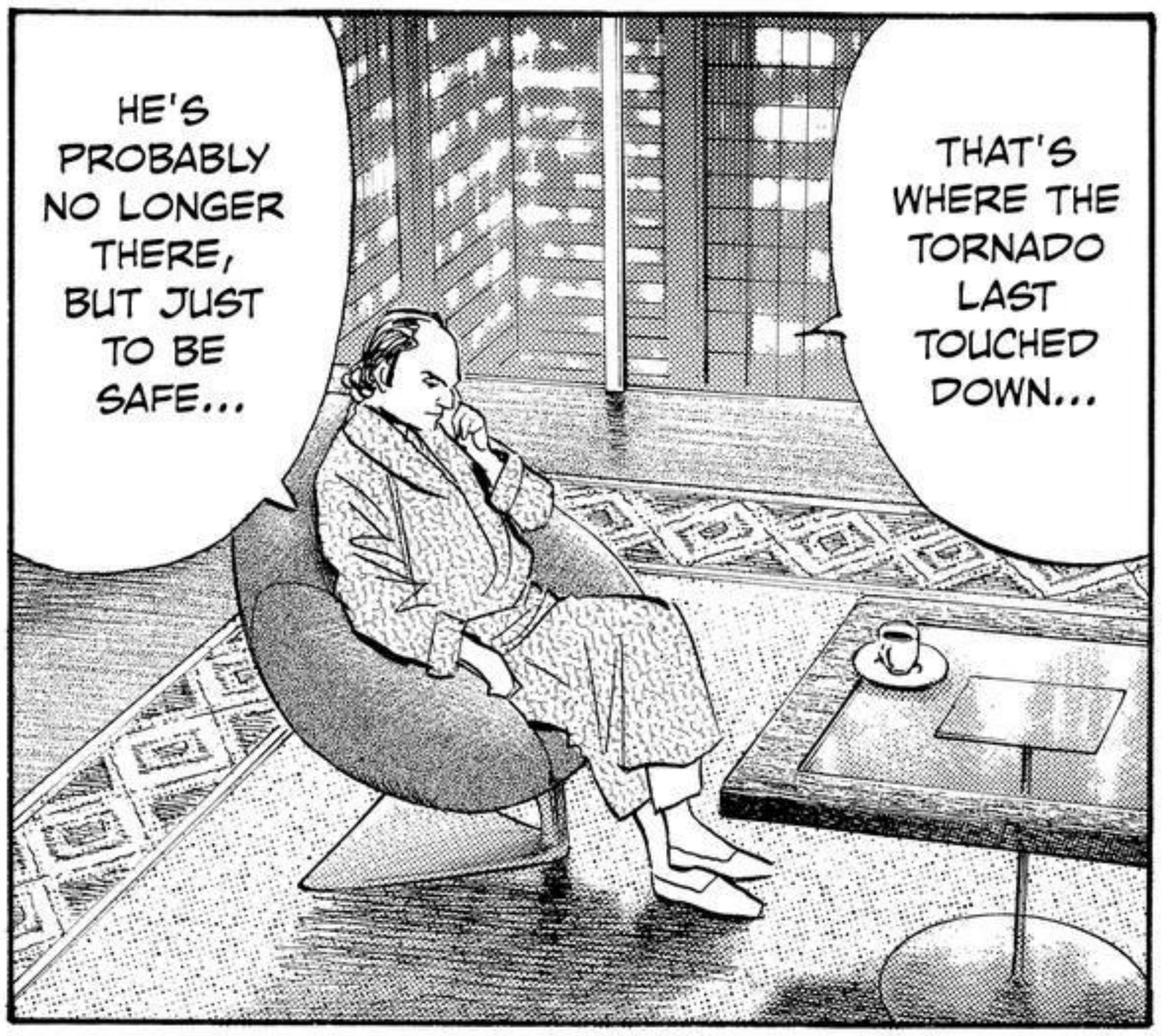
WHAT'D YOU SAY?

BORA?





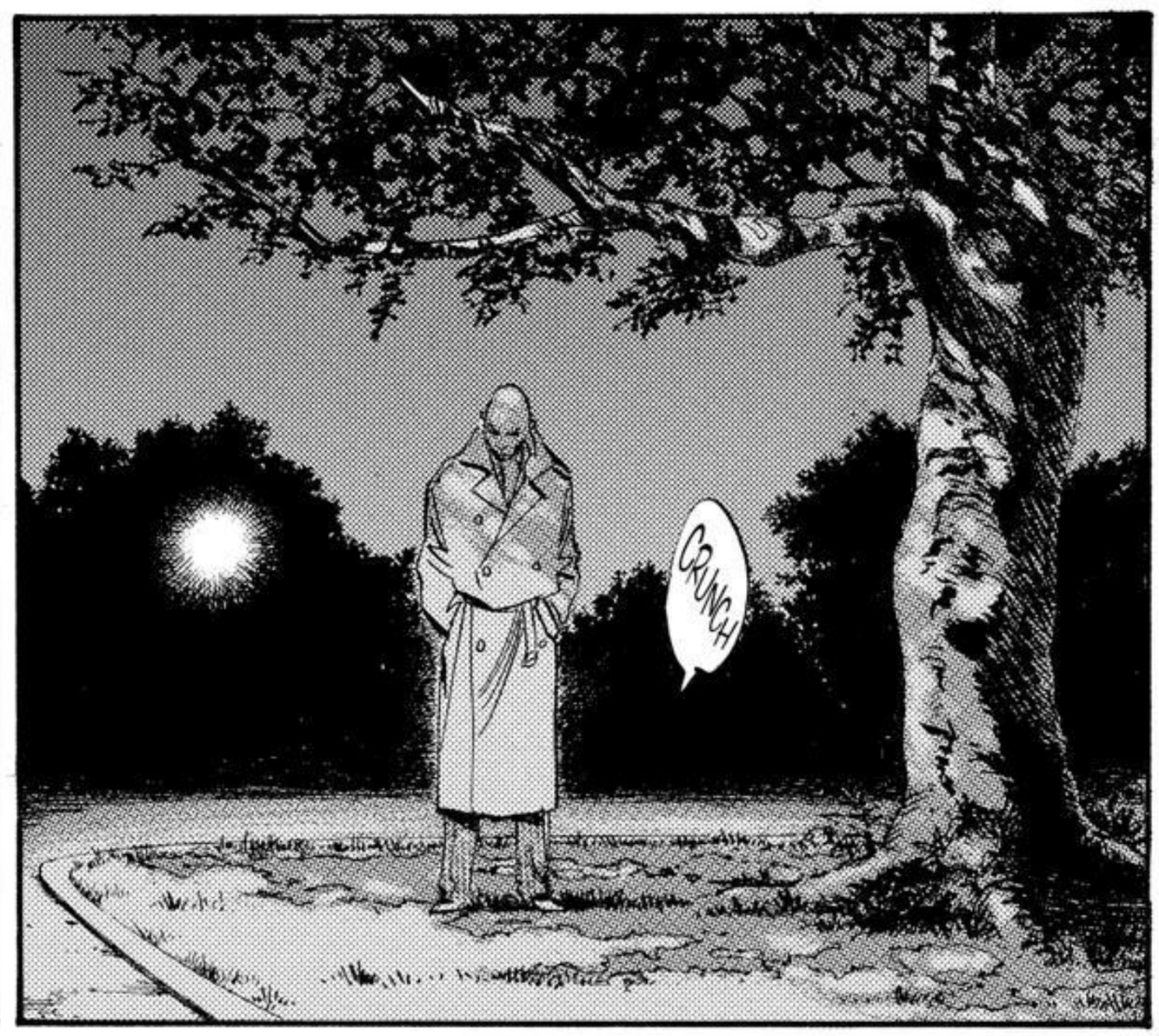

I'M AT THE ENTRANCE TO CENTRAL PARK, SIR.


HE'S PROBABLY NO LONGER THERE, BUT JUST TO BE SAFE...
THAT'S WHERE THE TORNADO LAST TOUCHED DOWN...

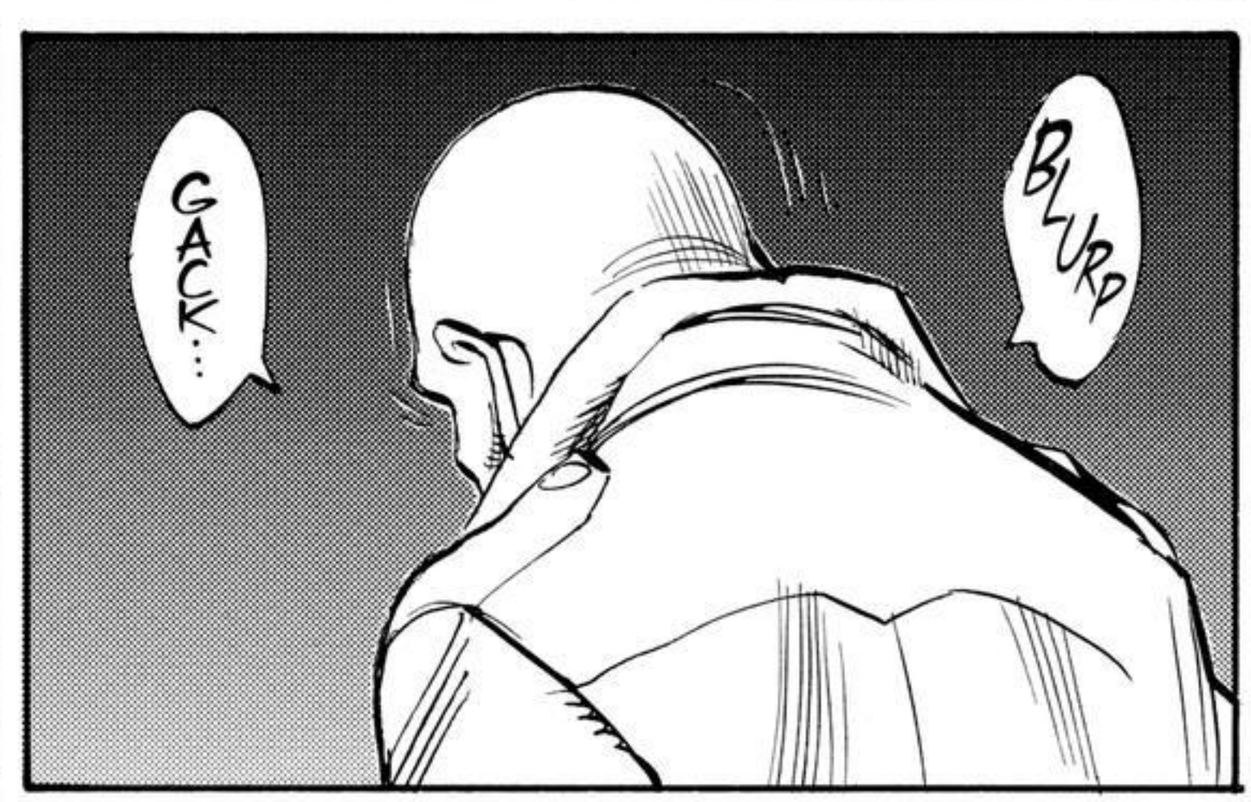
KLAK
KLAK
NO PROBLEM, PROFES-SOR...

IT'S SUCH A BIG PARK, I KNOW IT'LL BE TOUGH...

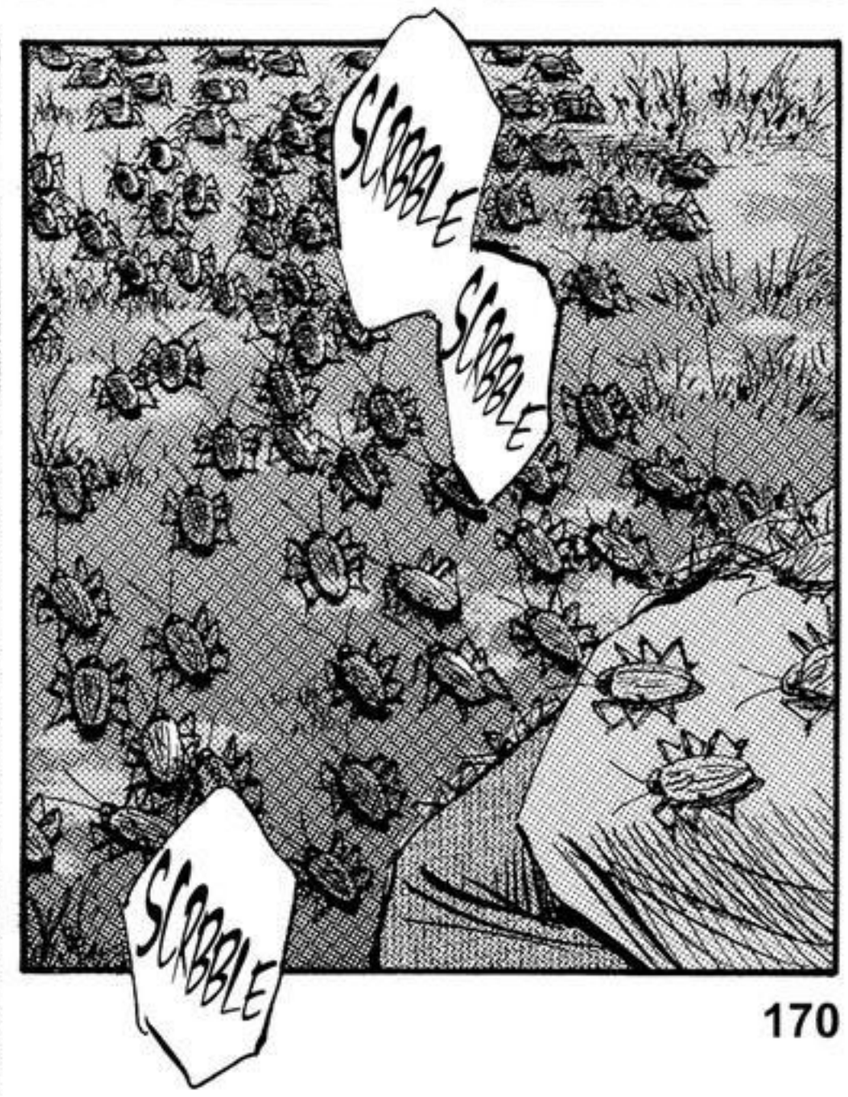
KLAK
AFTER ALL, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GAVE ME THIS BODY OF MINE.


CRUNCH

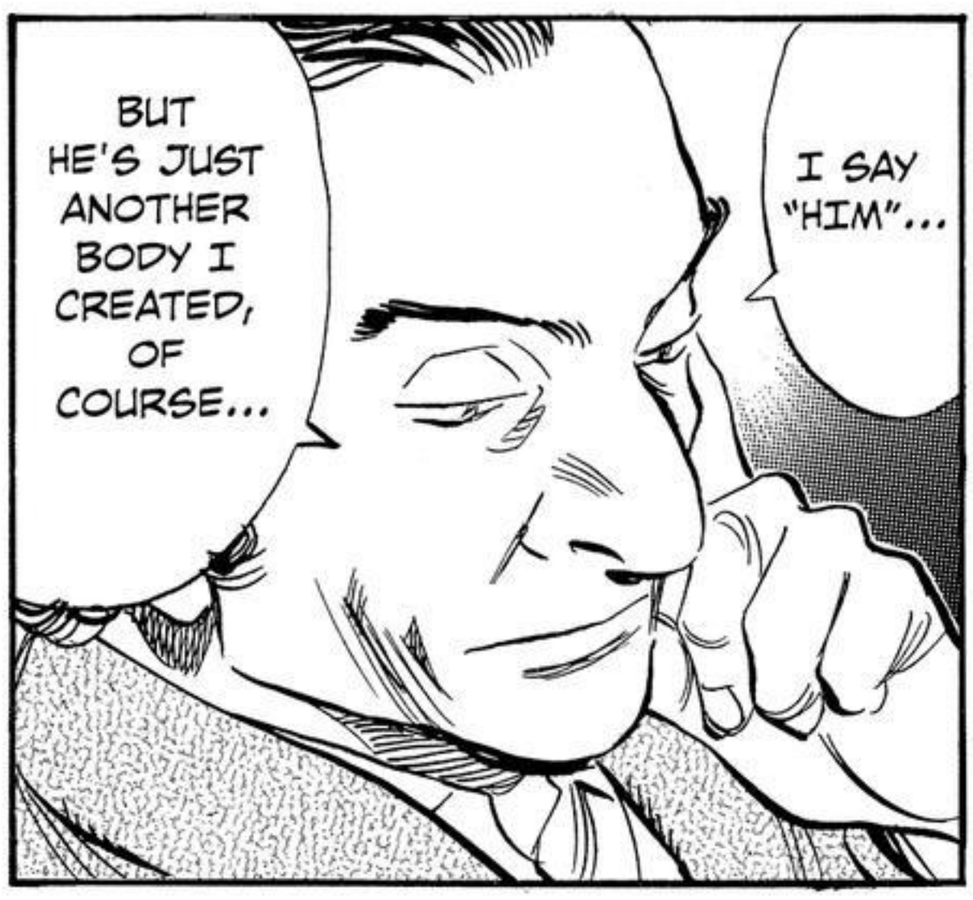
GAAAW...

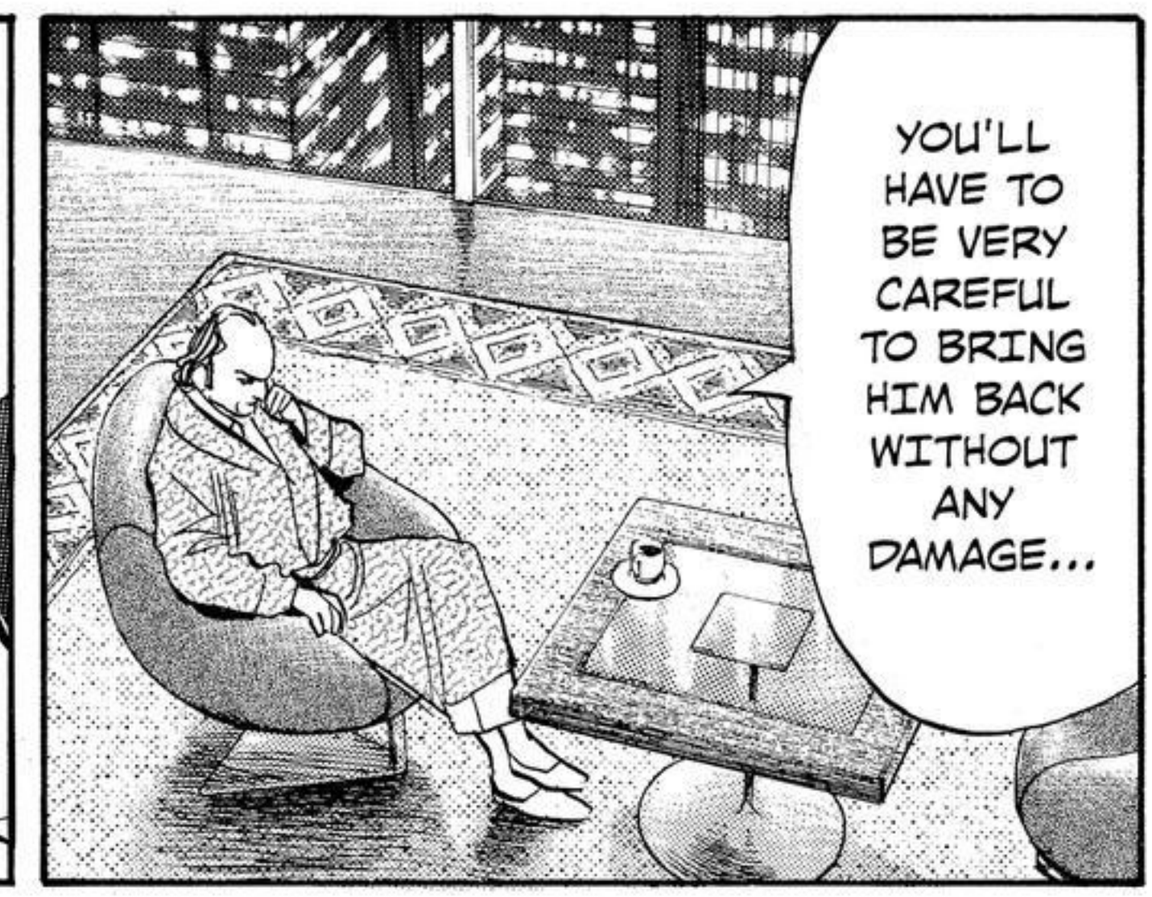

GACK...
BLURP

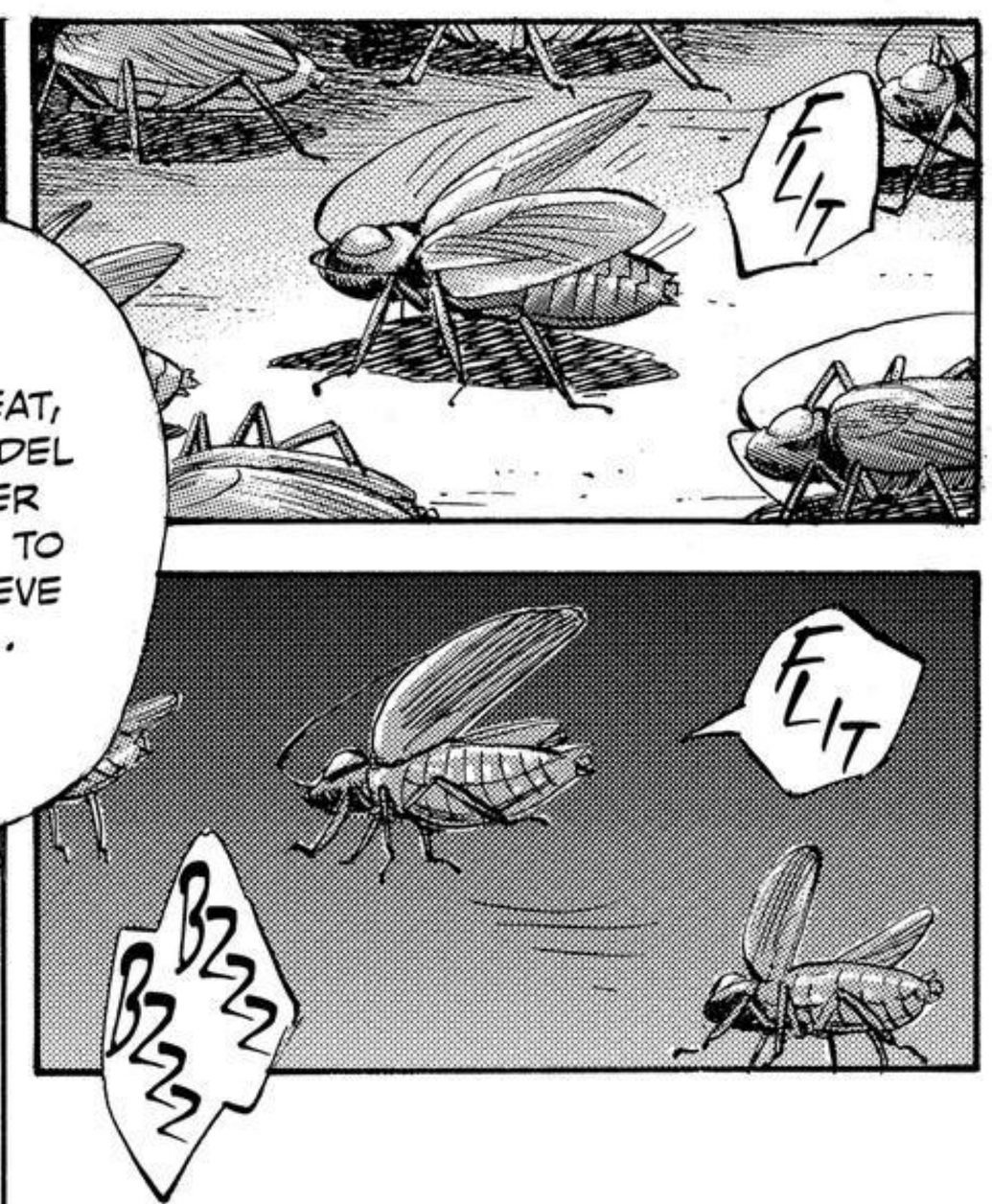
SCRBBLE
SCRBBLE
SCRBBLE
SCRATCH
SCRBBLE
SCRATCH SCRATCH
SCRBBLE
SCRATCH



SCRBBLE
SCRATCH
SCRBBLE
SCRBBLE
SCRATCH
SCRBBLE
SCRBBLE



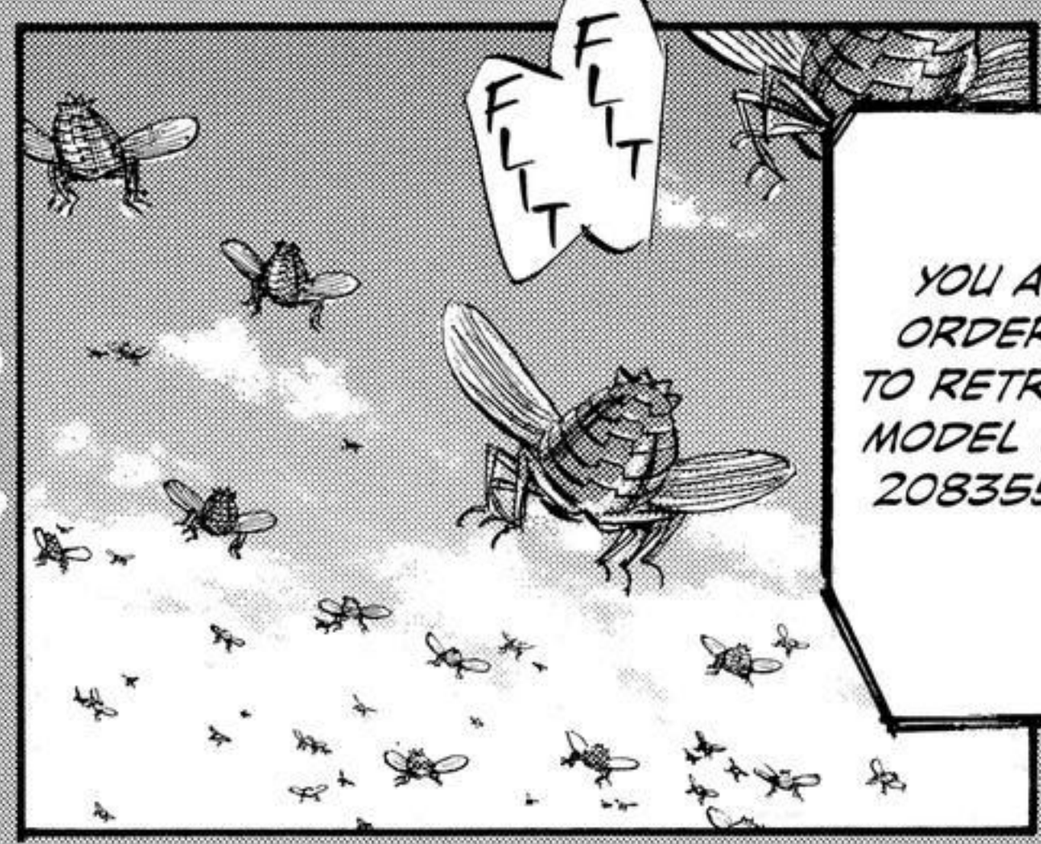


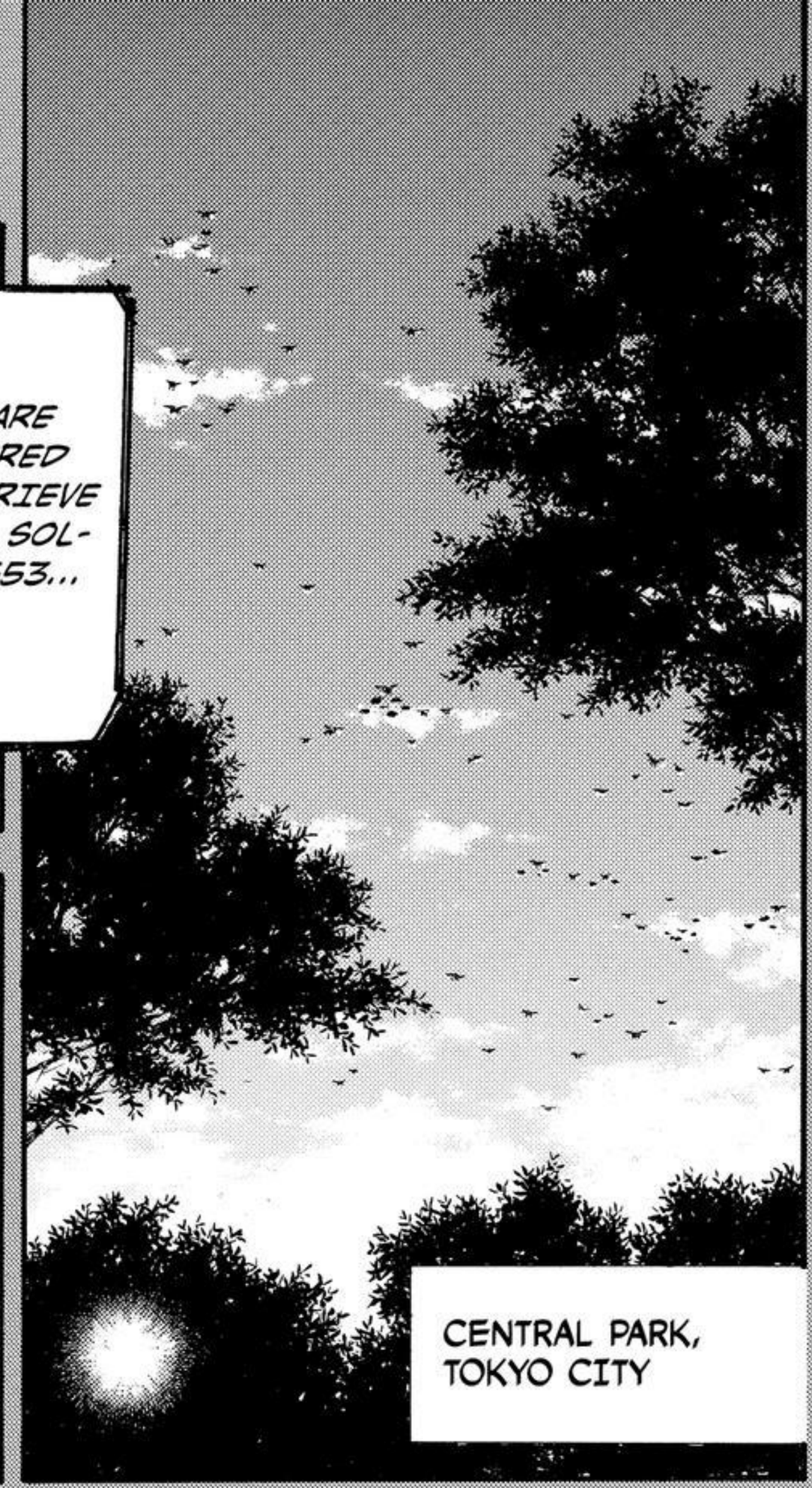


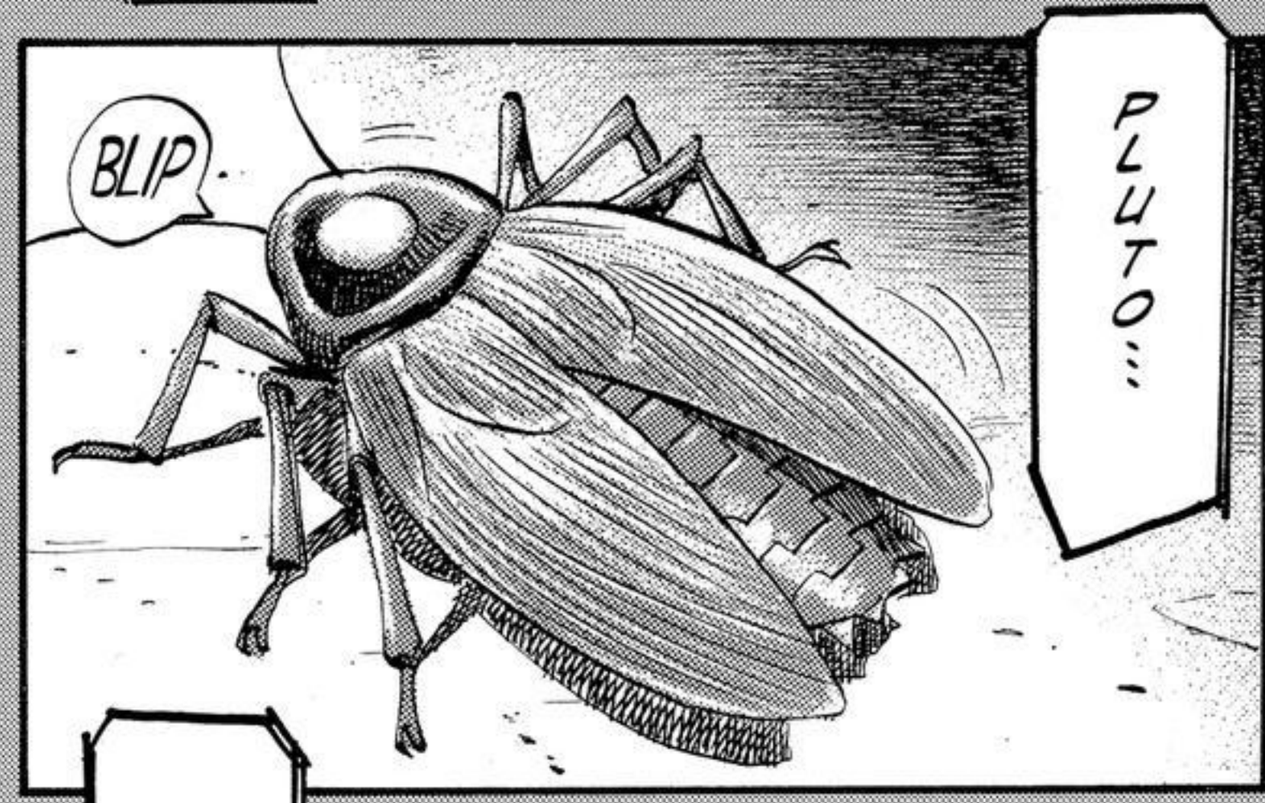
HIS NAME IS *PLUTO.*

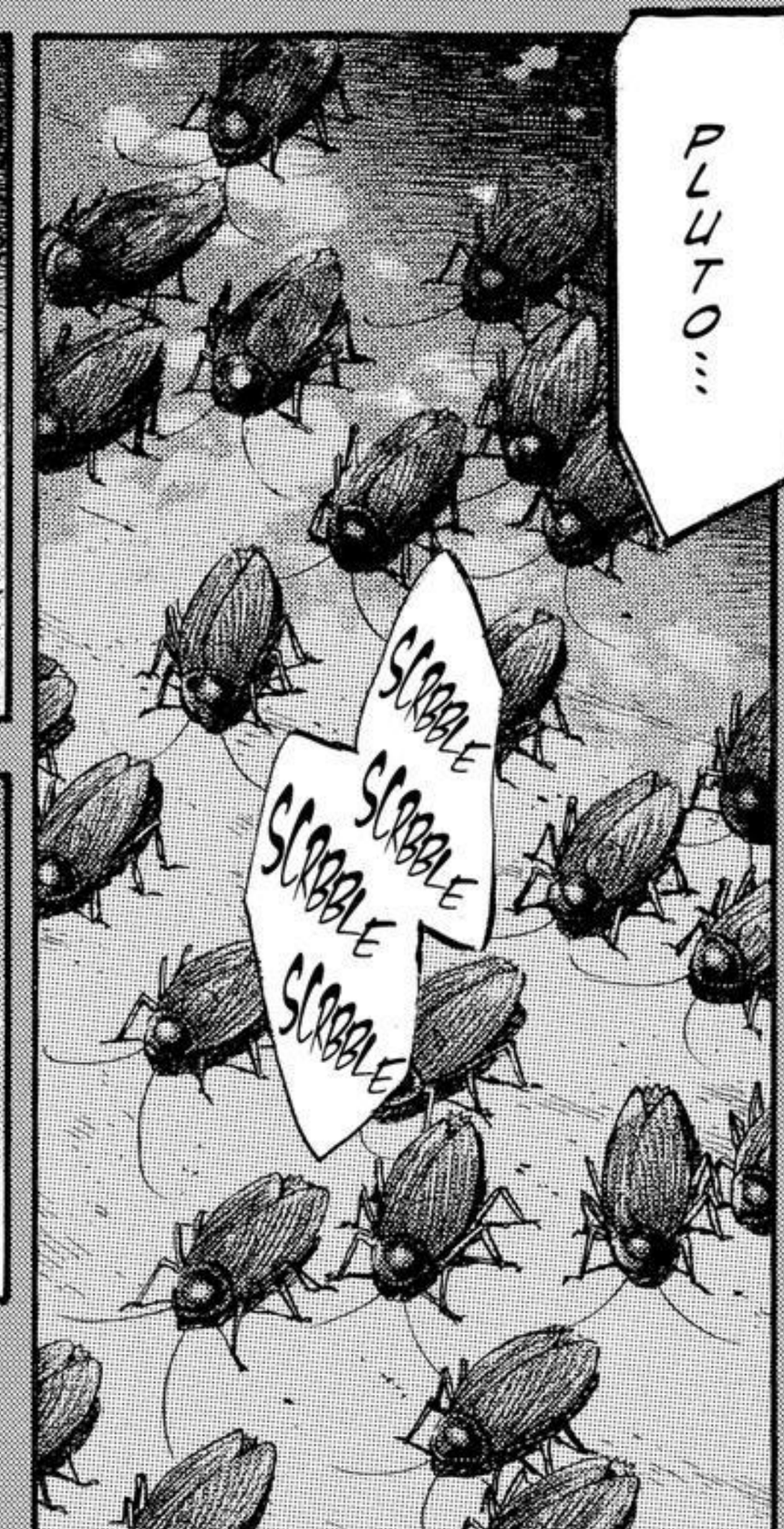
BZZZZ
BZZZZ
BZZZZ
BZZZZ
BZZZZ
BZZZZ

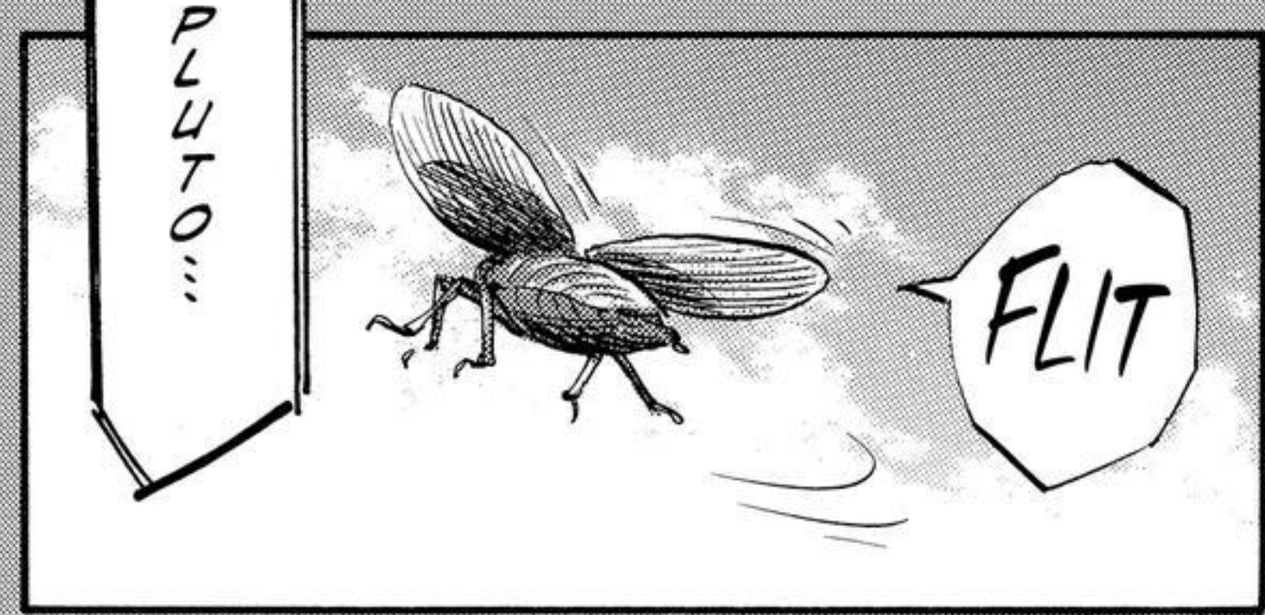
Act 23 WANDERING SOUL

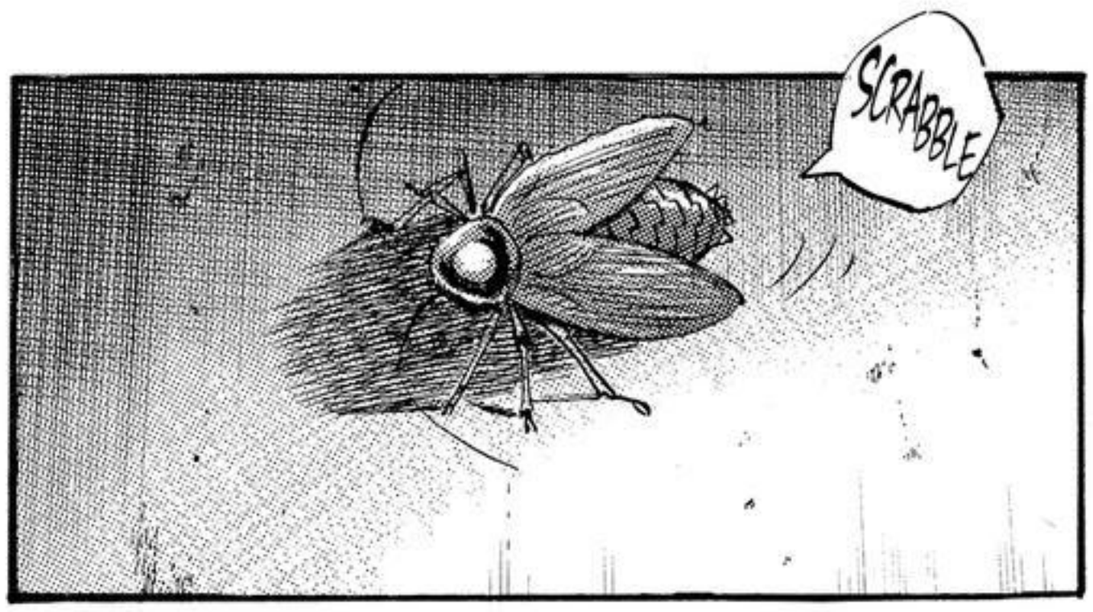




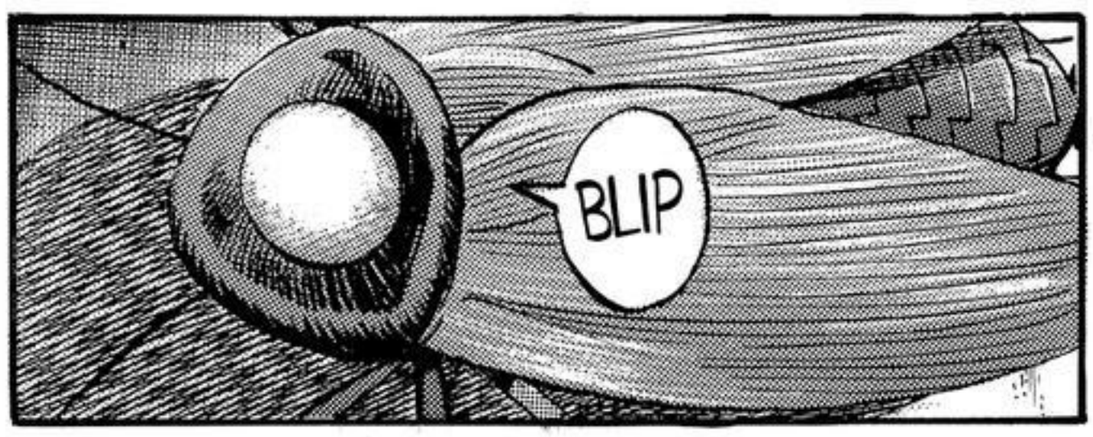


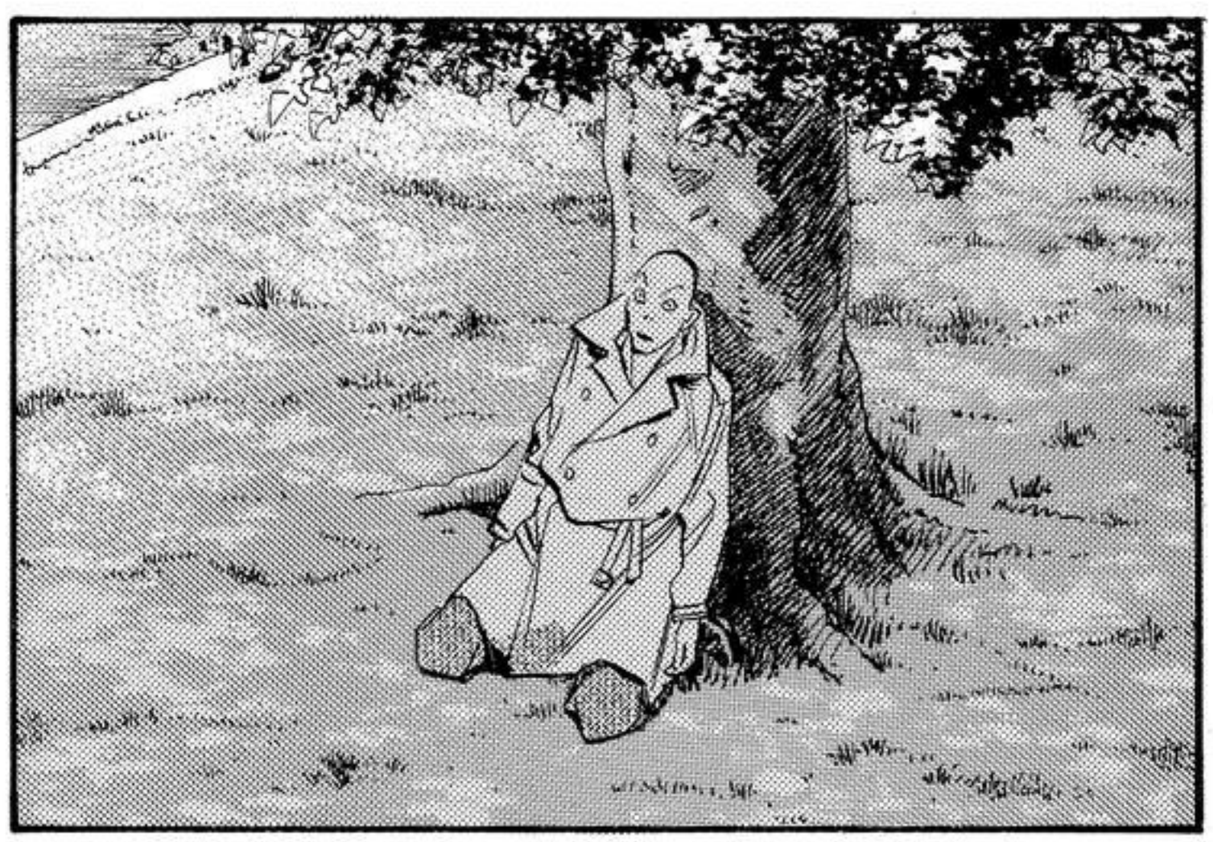


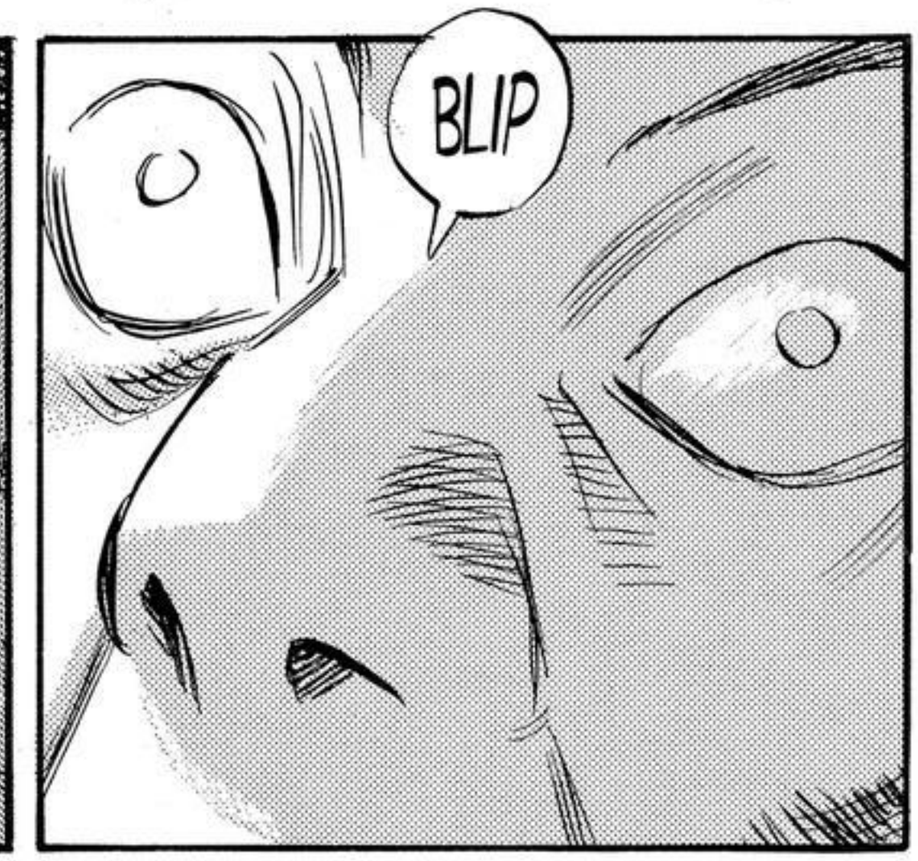


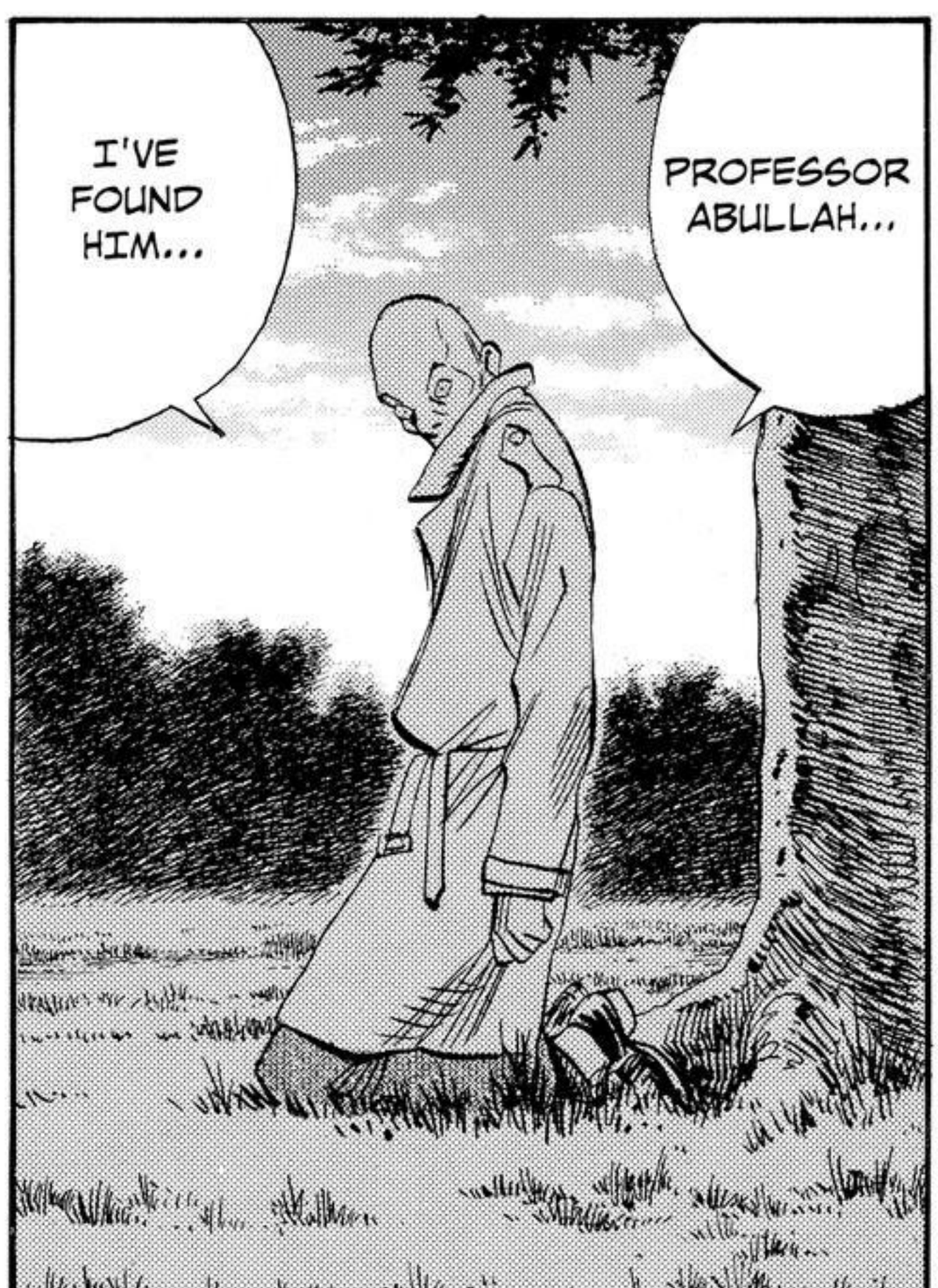

SCRABBLE

FLIT


BLIP




BLIP


I'VE FOUND HIM...
PROFESSOR ABULLAH...

SLUMP

PLUTO...

Act 23
WANDERING SOUL

SCRABBLE

SCRBBLE

MISTER, I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT!!

FLIT

LIKE THIS PAINTING?

...YOU CAN MAKE THE WHOLE WORLD INTO A *FLOWER GARDEN*!

THAT'S RIGHT!

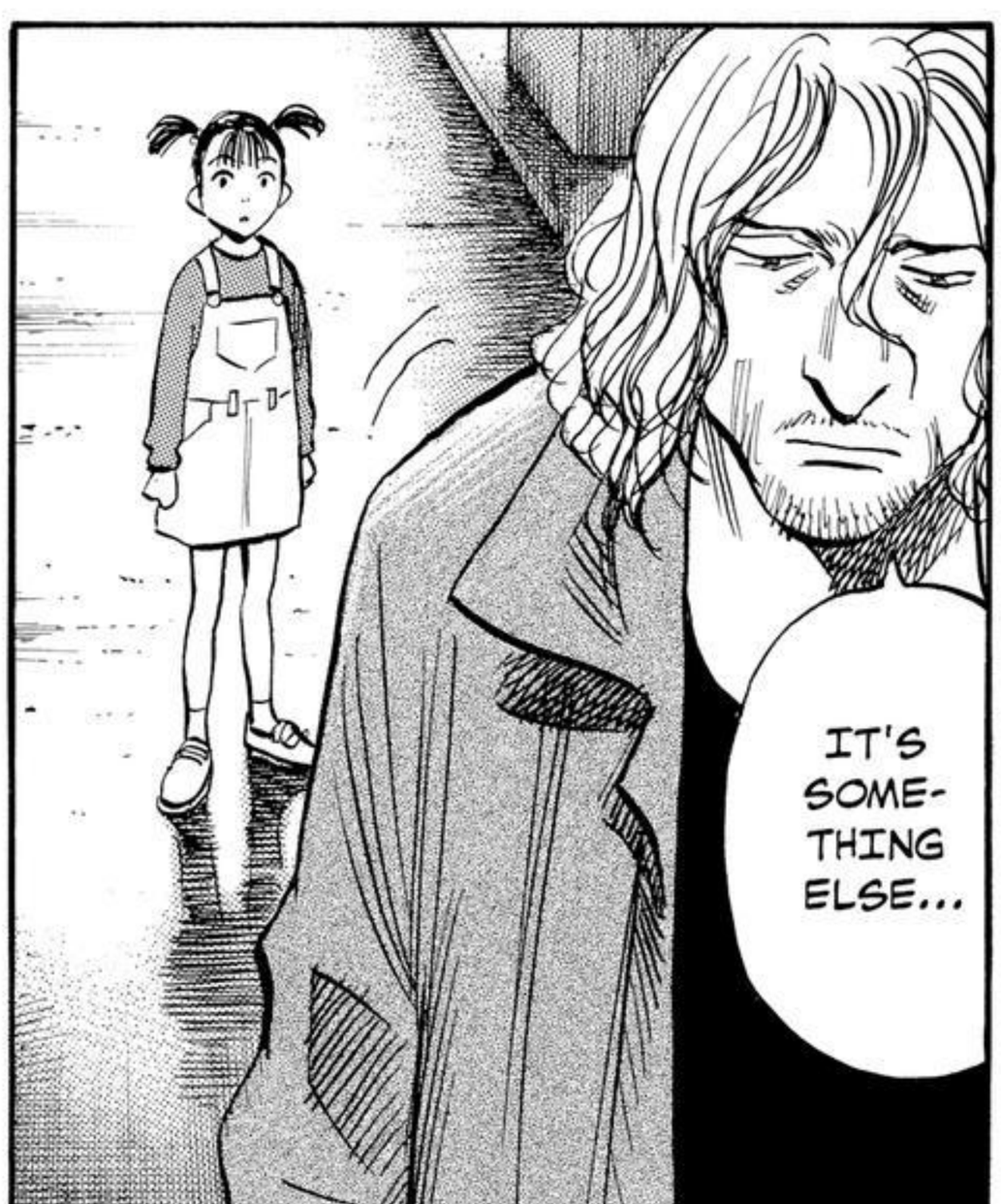
YOU CAN MAKE THE WHOLE WORLD LOOK LIKE THIS PAINTING!!

...TO DO IT?
BORN...

MISTER, YOU WERE BORN TO DO IT!

YOU'VE GOT THE POWER TO TURN THE WORLD INTO A GARDEN!
THAT'S RIGHT. YOU'VE GOTTA REMEM-BER!

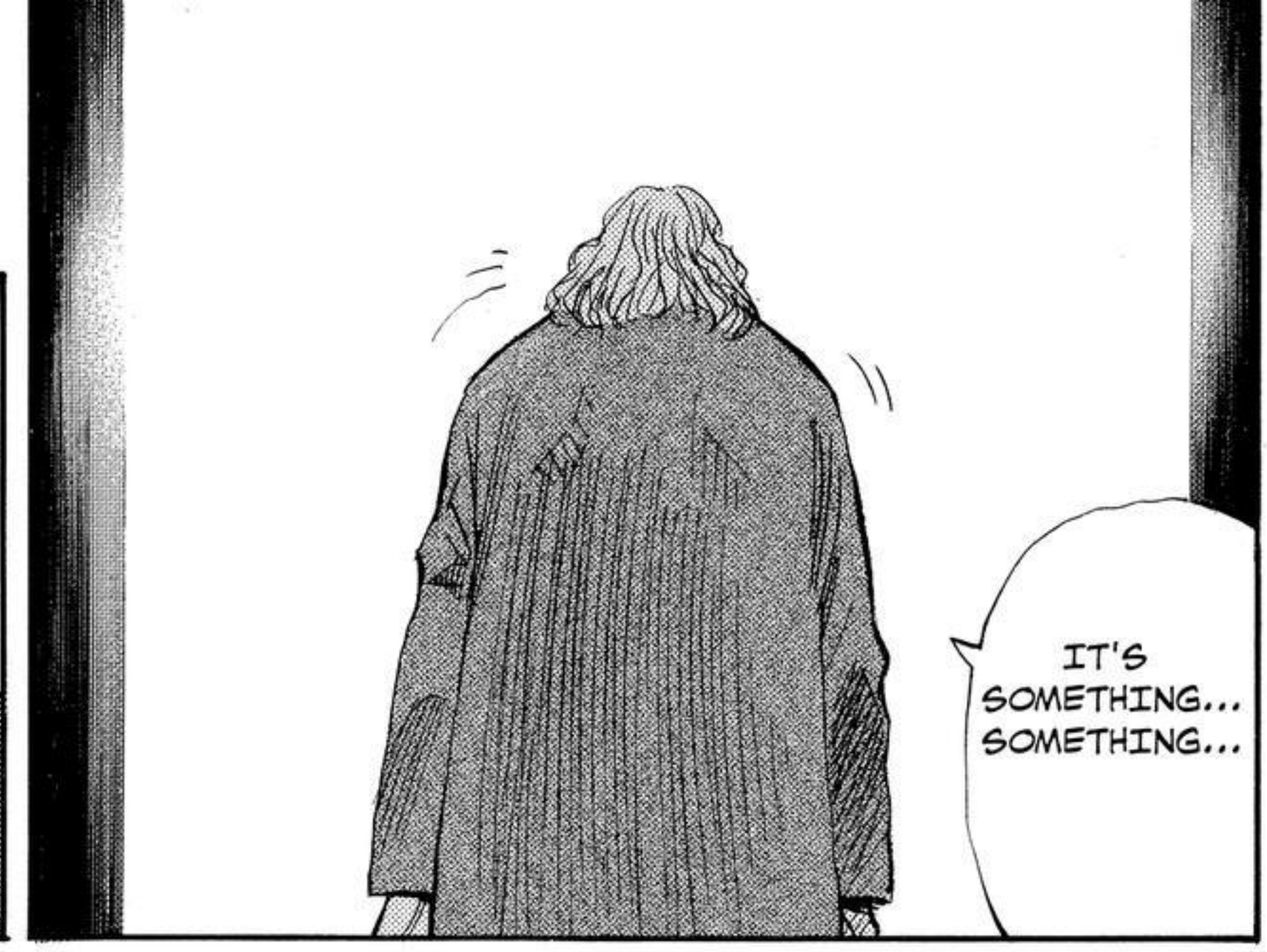
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU'RE WRONG...

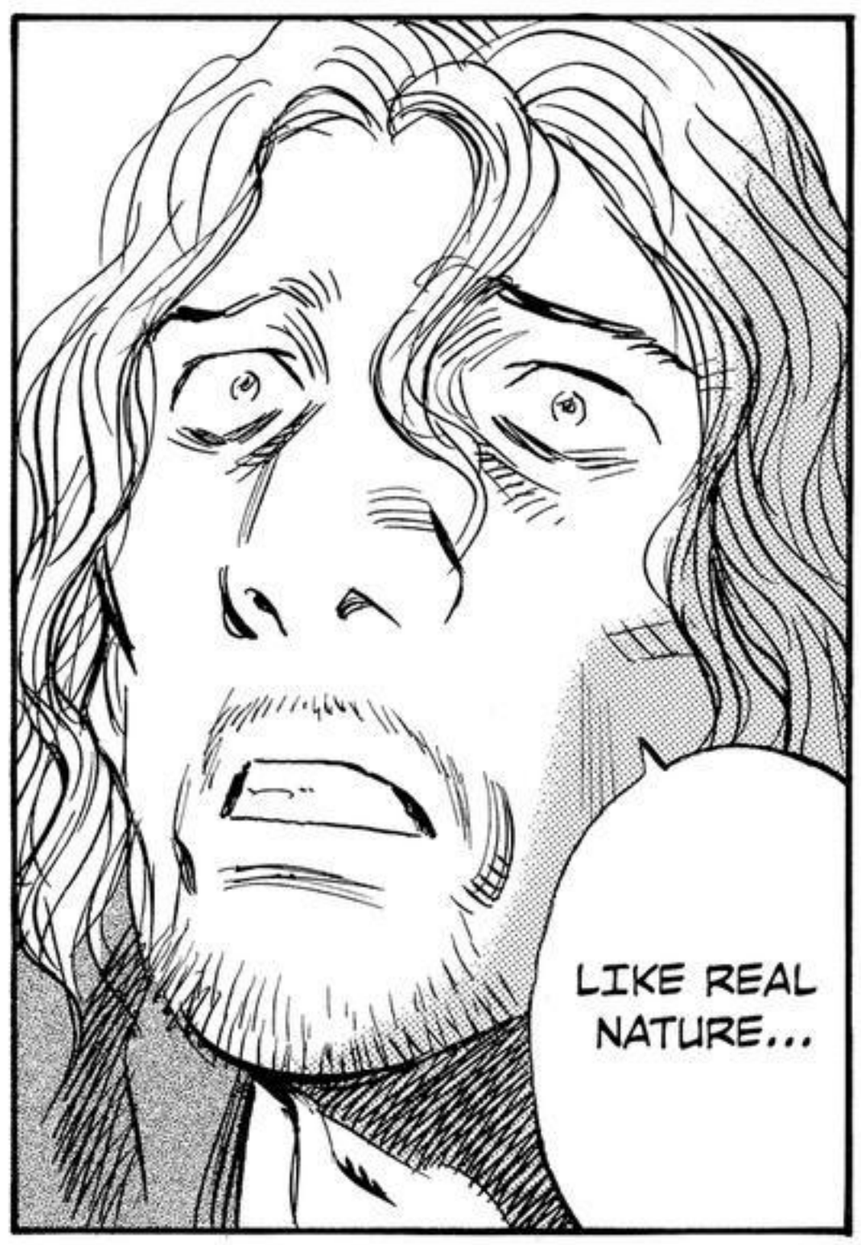

IT'S SOME-THING ELSE...

IT'S NOT A FLOWER GARDEN...

HUH?

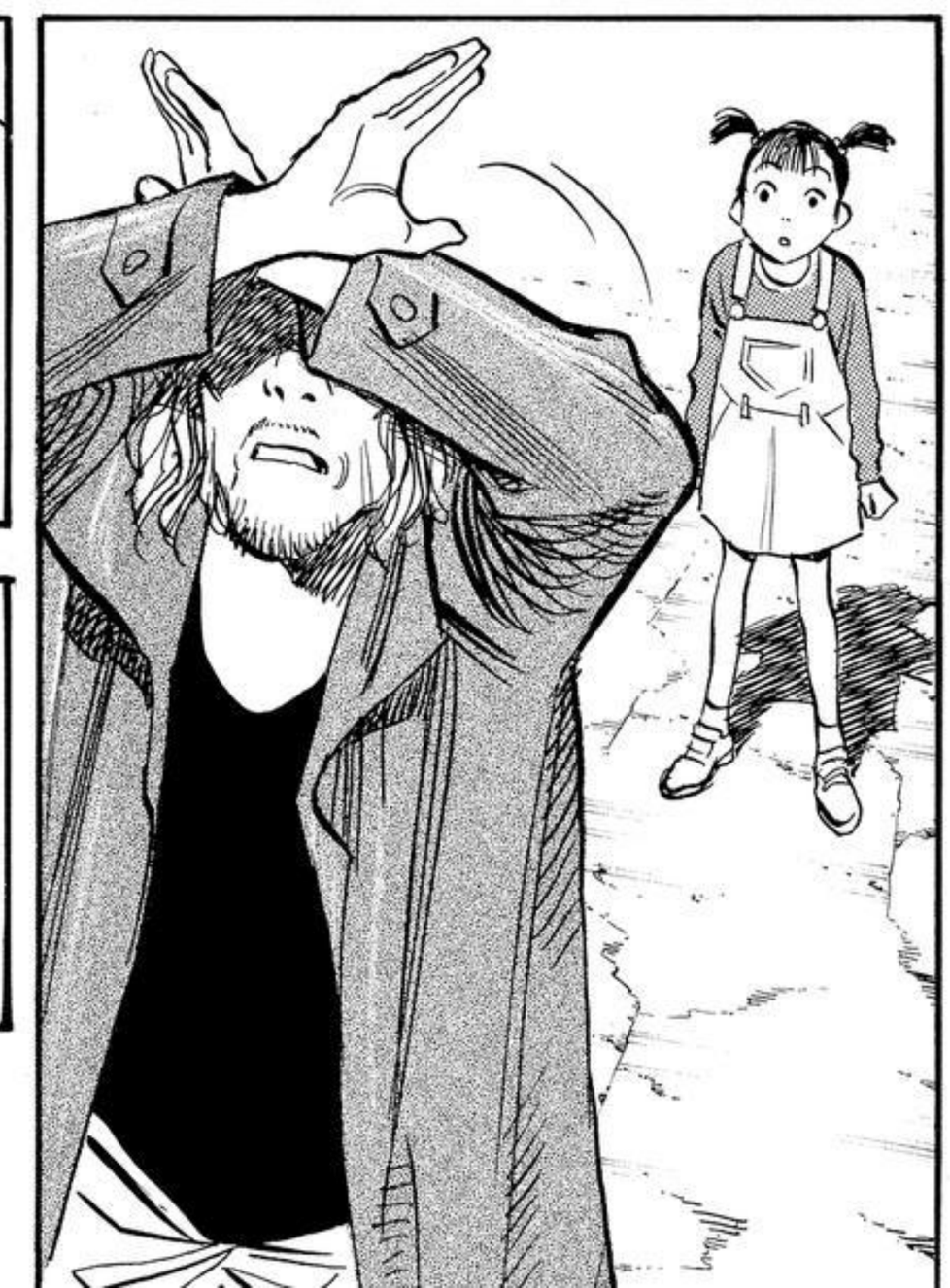
SOME-
THING
WHAT
...?


IT'S
SOMETHING...
SOMETHING...


LIKE REAL
NATURE...

SOMETHING
BIGGER...

STAND
BACK...



WHOOSH

WHOA!!

WHA--?

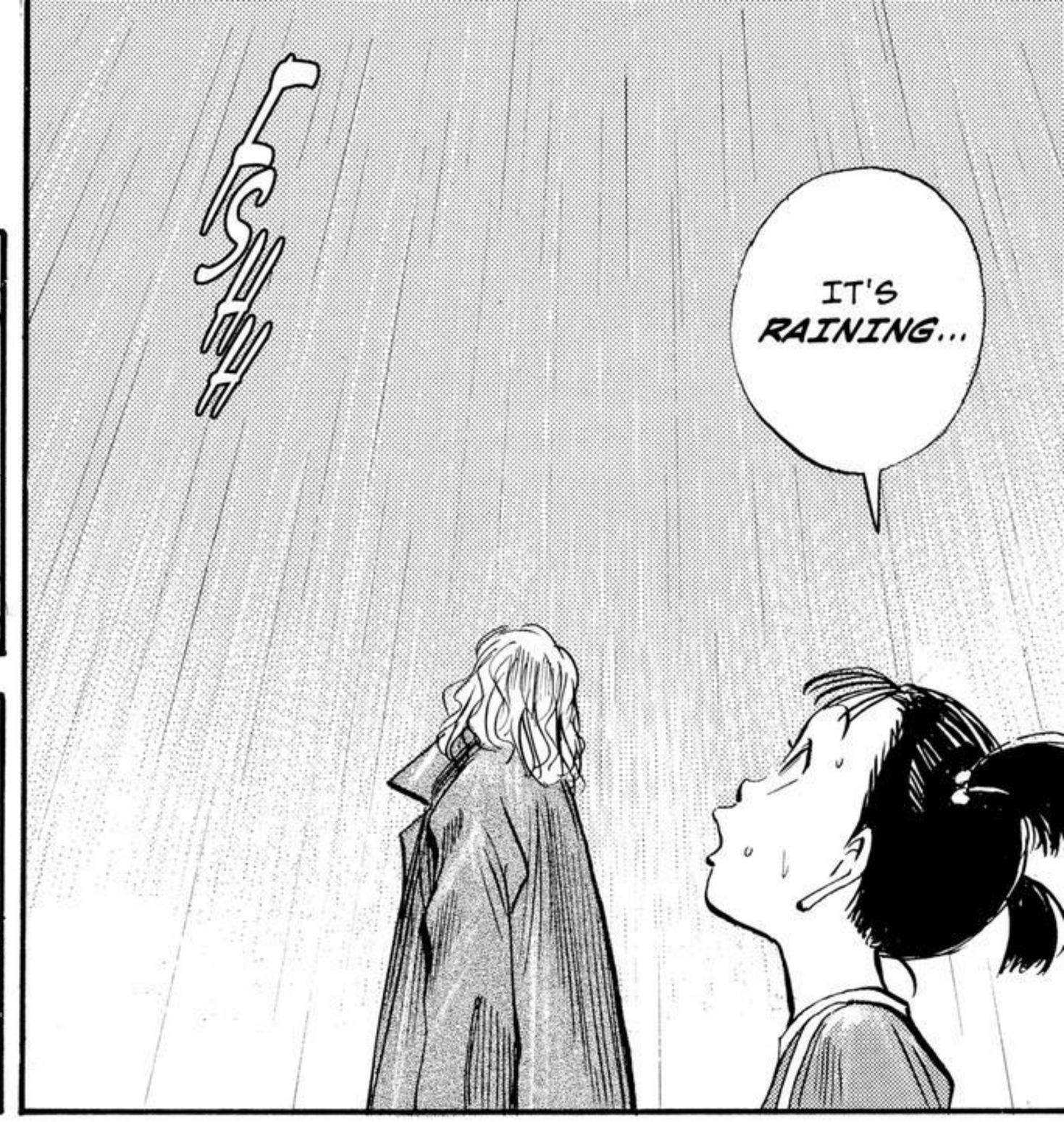
WHOOSH

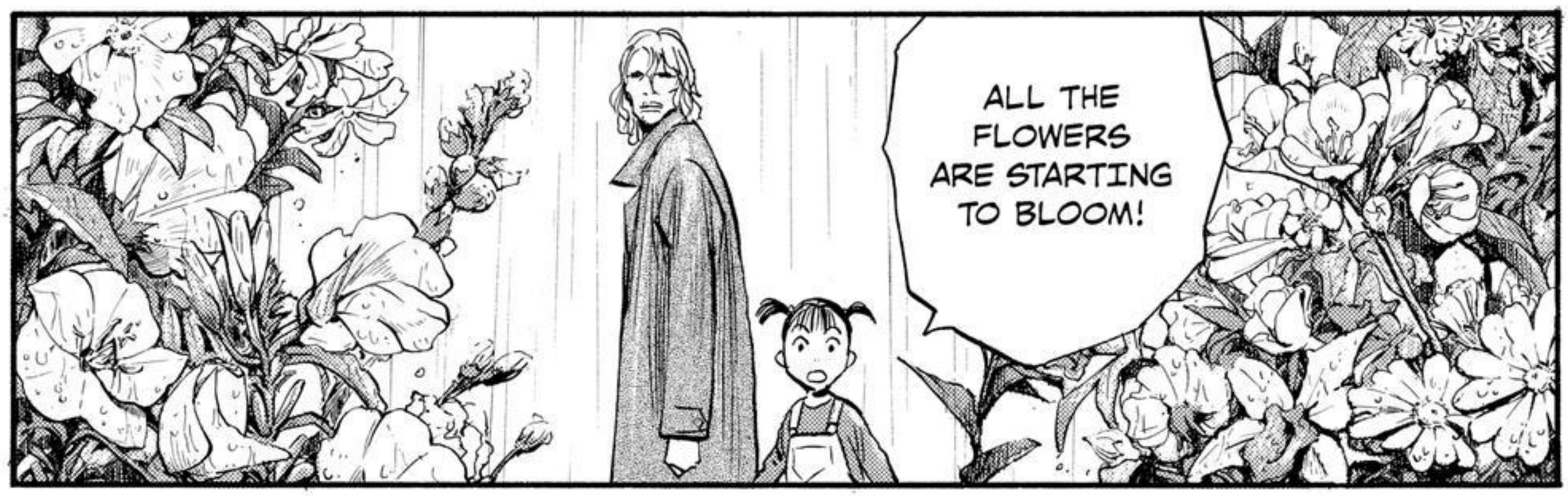
A... TORNADO ...?

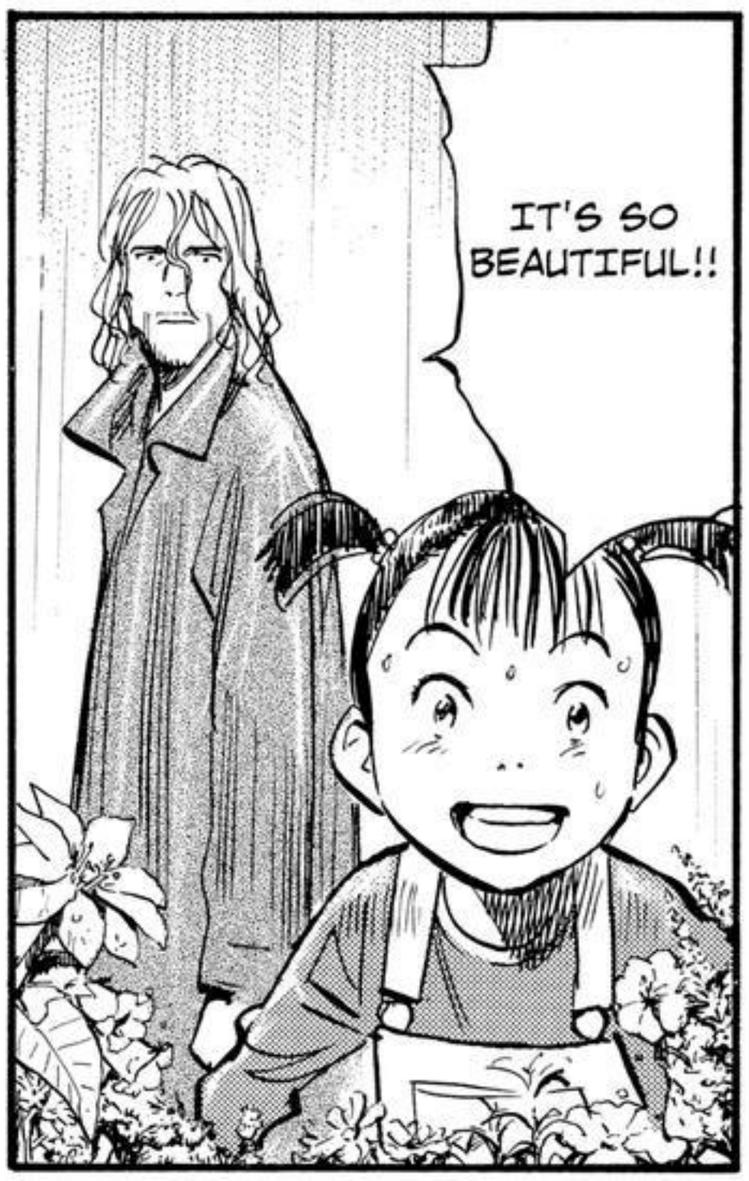
WHOOSH

PLIP

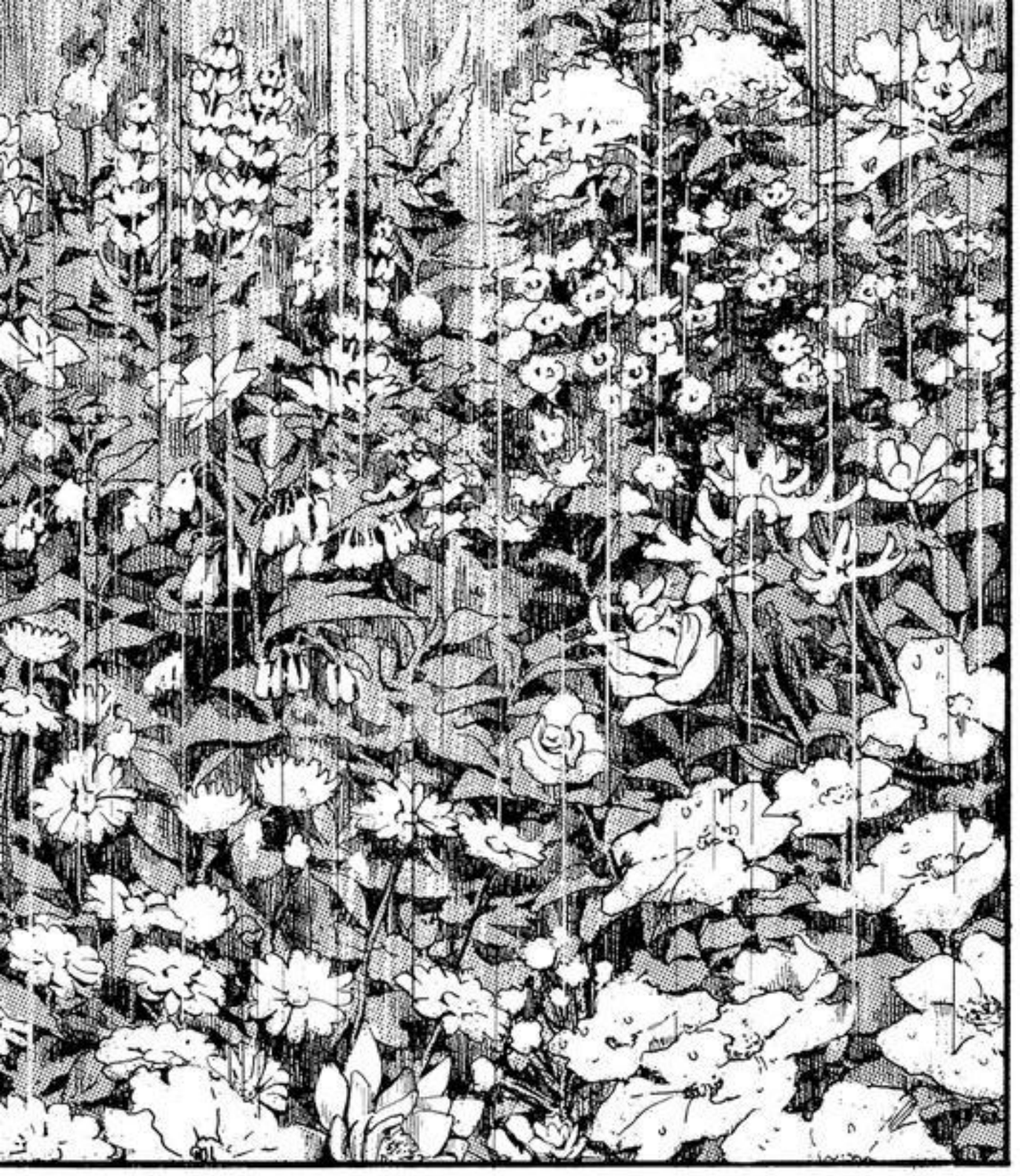
LOOK AT THAT!!
WOW!


FSSH
IT'S RAINING...

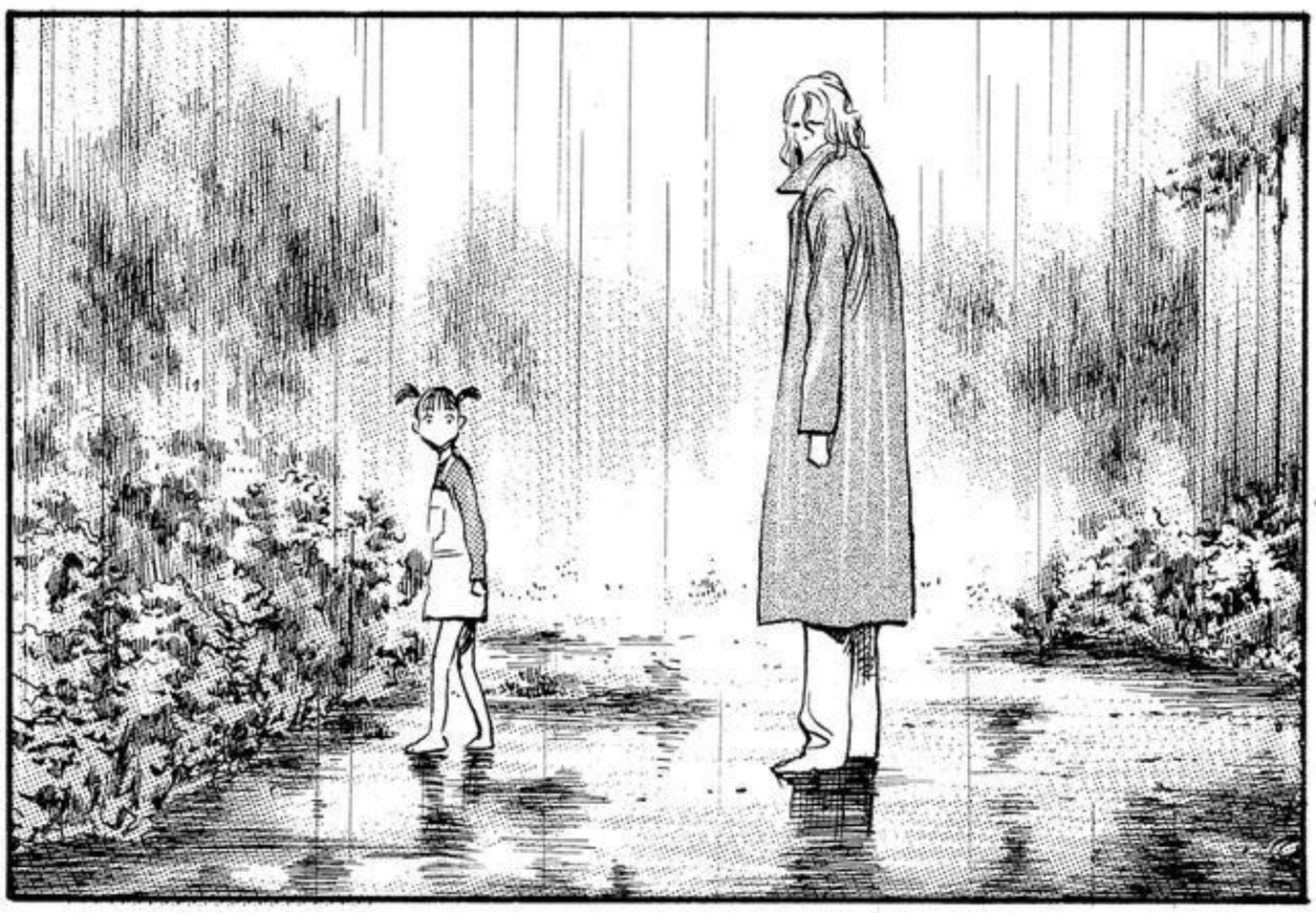

ALL THE FLOWERS ARE STARTING TO BLOOM!


IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL!!

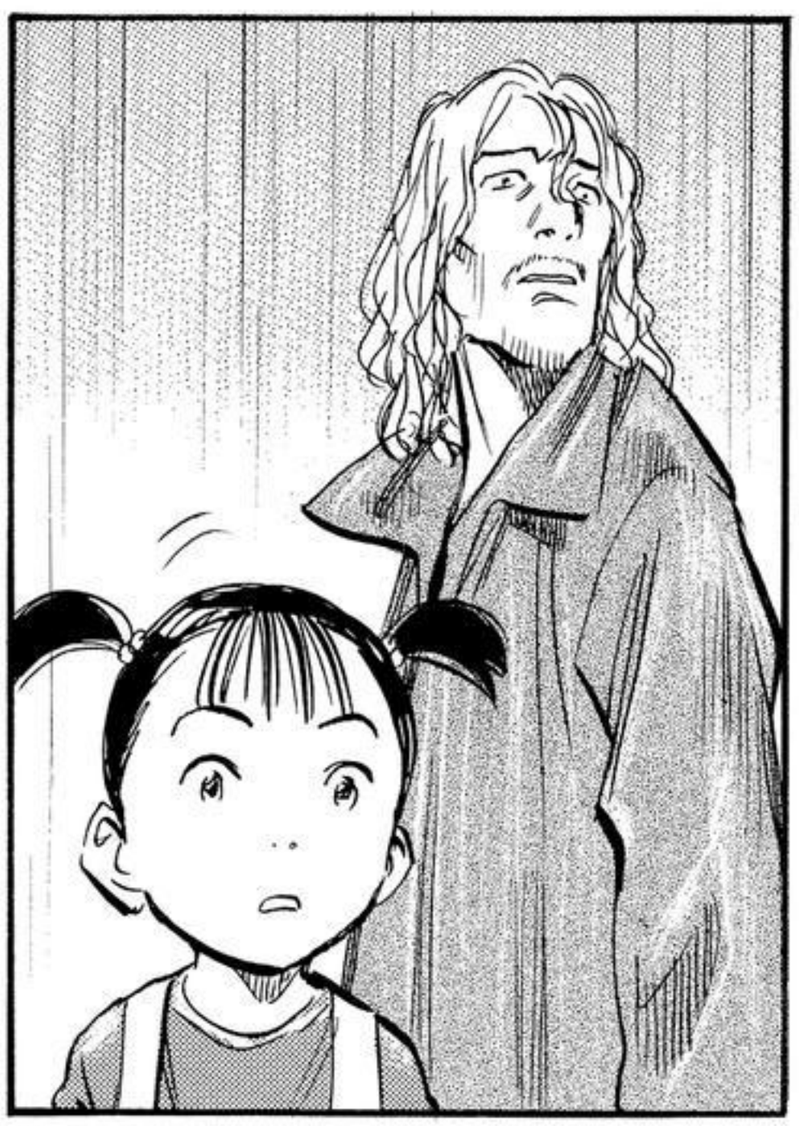
THIS IS REALLY AMAZING!!
EVERY-THING'S TURNING INTO A FLOWER GARDEN!!



BEAUTIFUL ...



URAN!!
?!



GET AWAY FROM THAT GUY, URAN!!

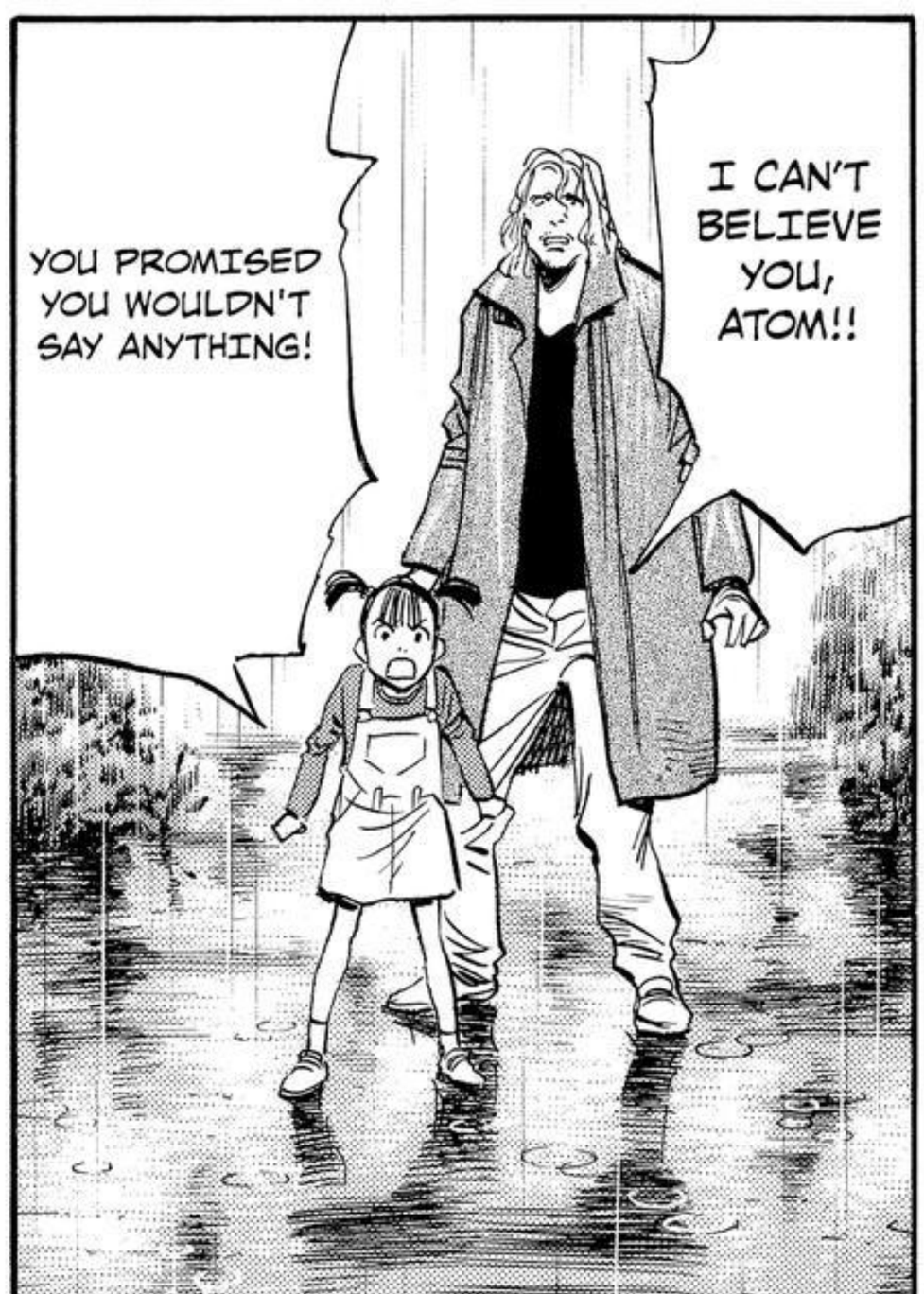
ATOM...

THERE'S A STRANGE ELECTRO-MAGNETIC FIELD SPINNING AROUND HIM...

PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU ...?

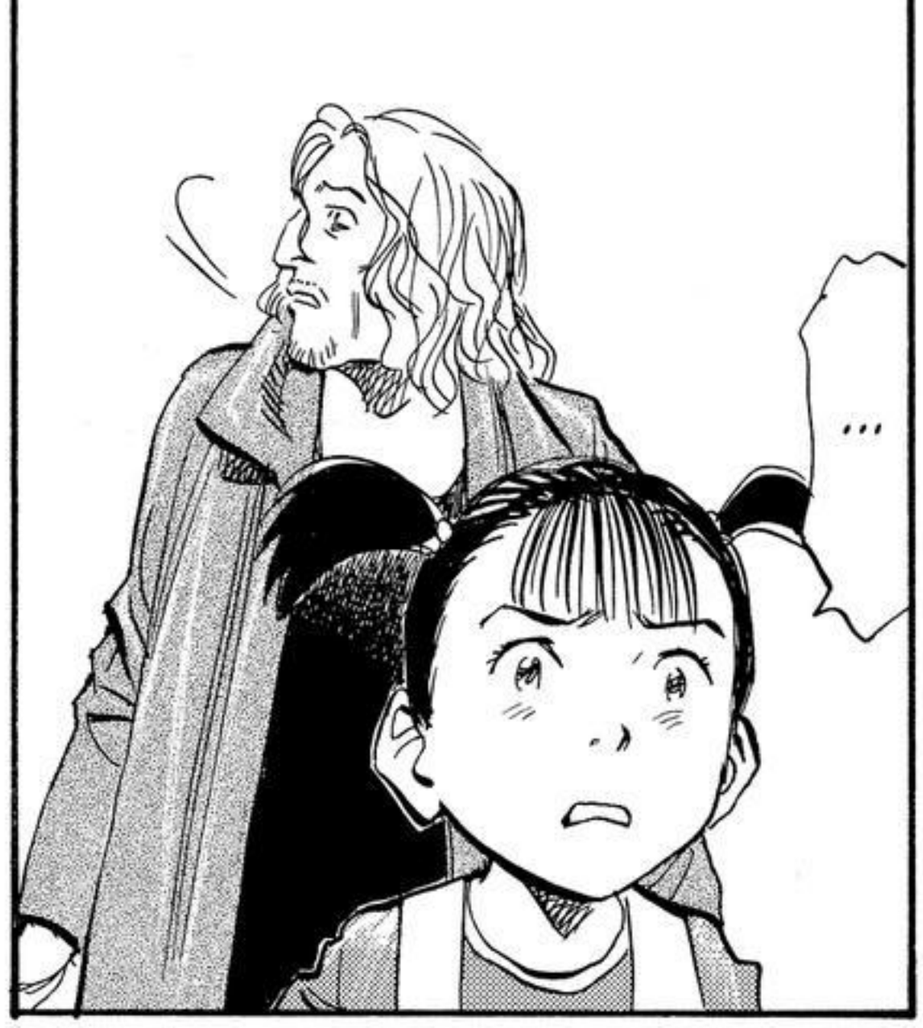
URAN! DO AS ATOM SAYS! GET OVER HERE, NOW!

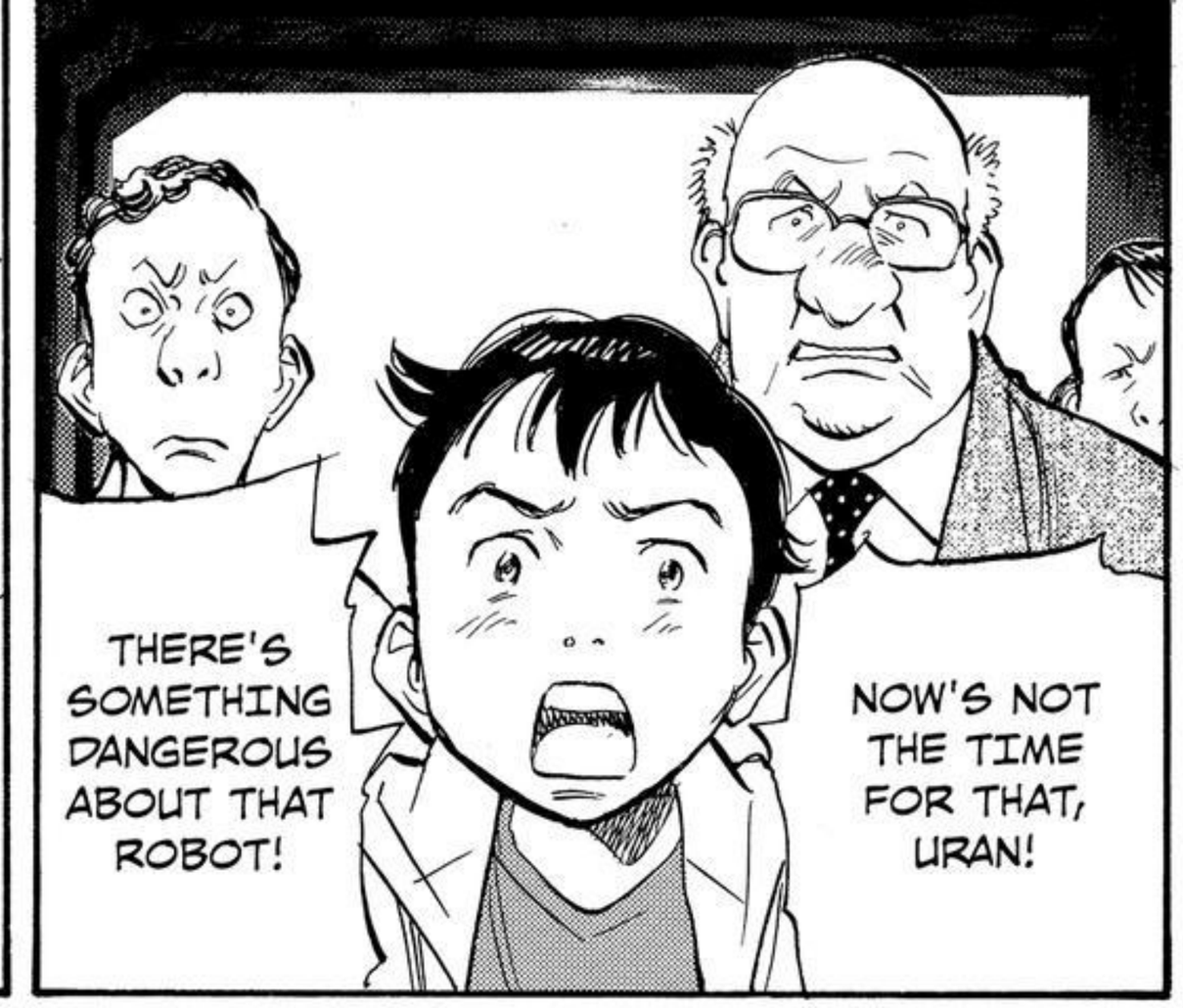
THE TEAM OF ROBOT SPECIALISTS AT THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE...
YOU'VE BEEN ACTING SO WEIRD, URAN. I HAD TO CALL THEM...


YOU PROMISED YOU WOULDN'T SAY ANYTHING!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU, ATOM!!

!!
NO...

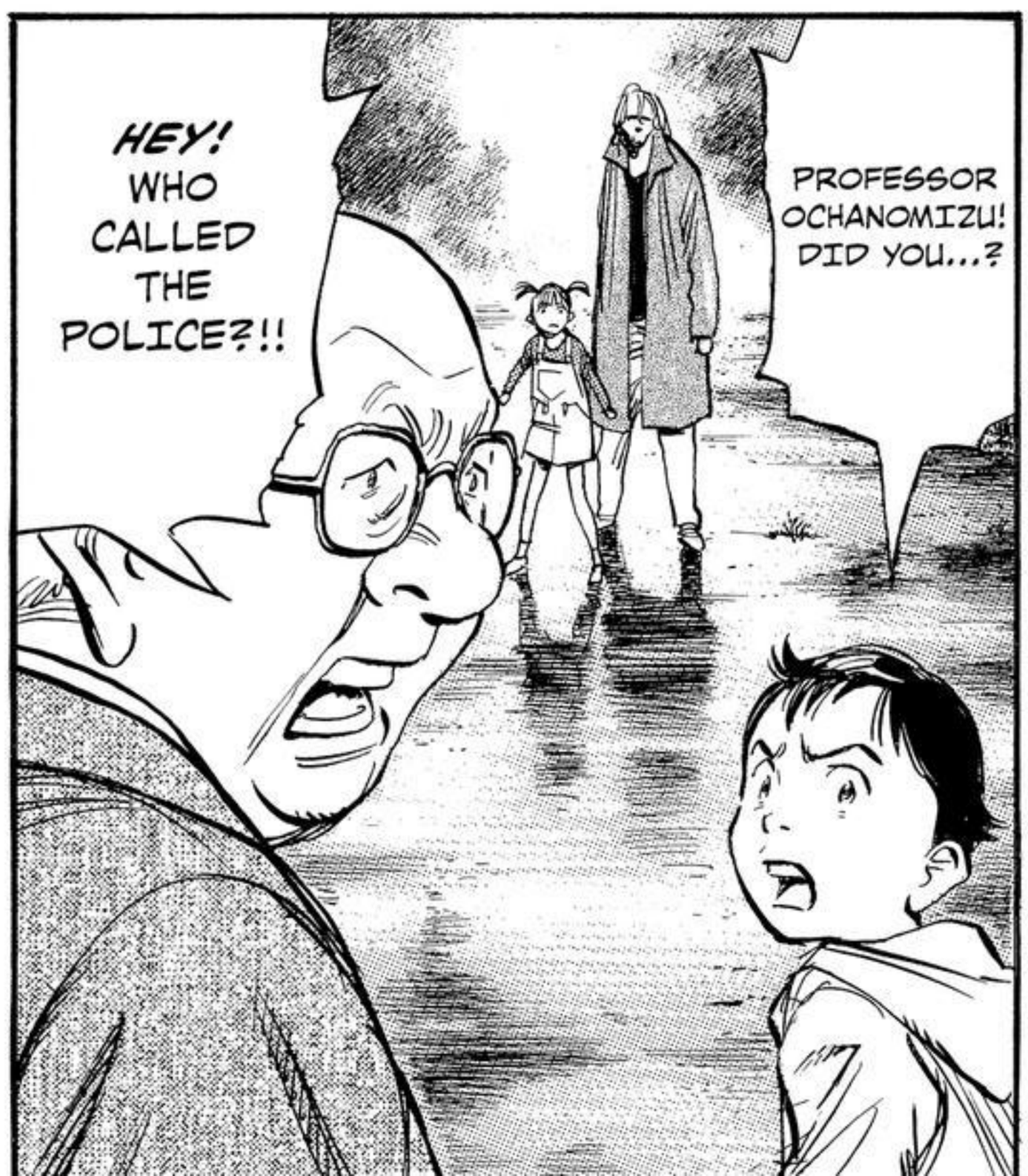
NOOO...


...


THERE'S SOMETHING DANGEROUS ABOUT THAT ROBOT!
NOW'S NOT THE TIME FOR THAT, URAN!

!!
CHAK
POLICE
SQUAD B IN POSITION!!

CHAK
SQUAD A IS IN POSITION!!


HEY! WHO CALLED THE POLICE?!!
PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU! DID YOU...?

WHAT THE--?!

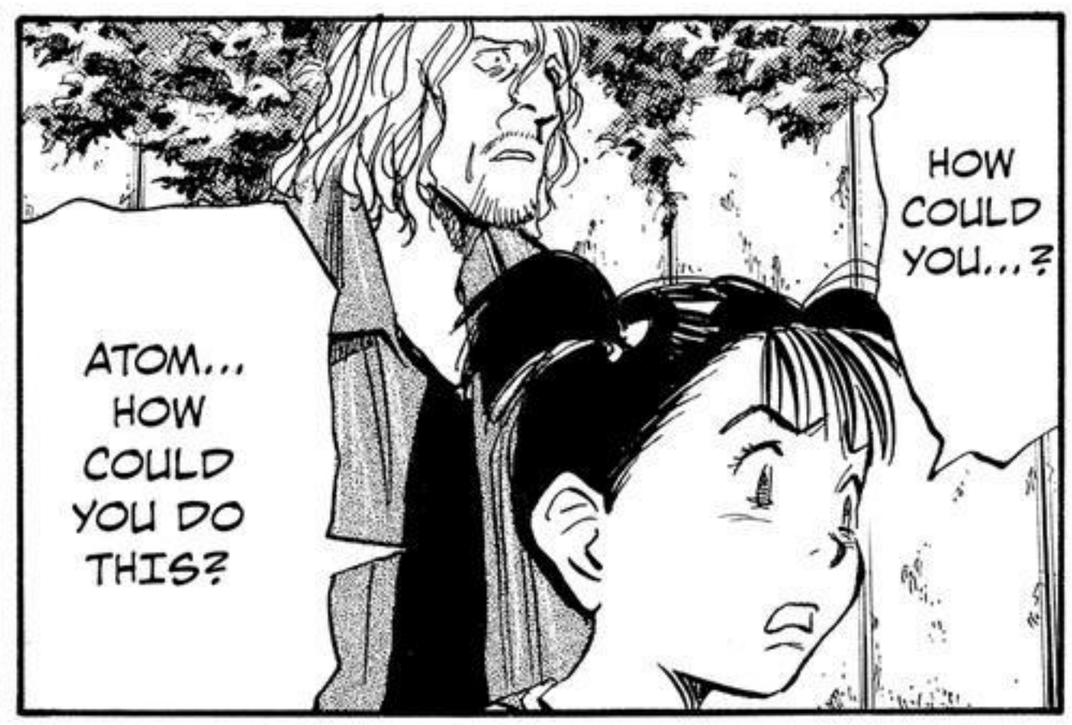
YOU CALLED THE POLICE ?!

...

FOR GOOD-NESS SAKE...
JUST FOLLOWING REGULATIONS, SIR...

TRAMP TRAMP
INSPECTOR NAKAMURA HERE. YOU OKAY, PROFESSOR?!

ATOM ...?

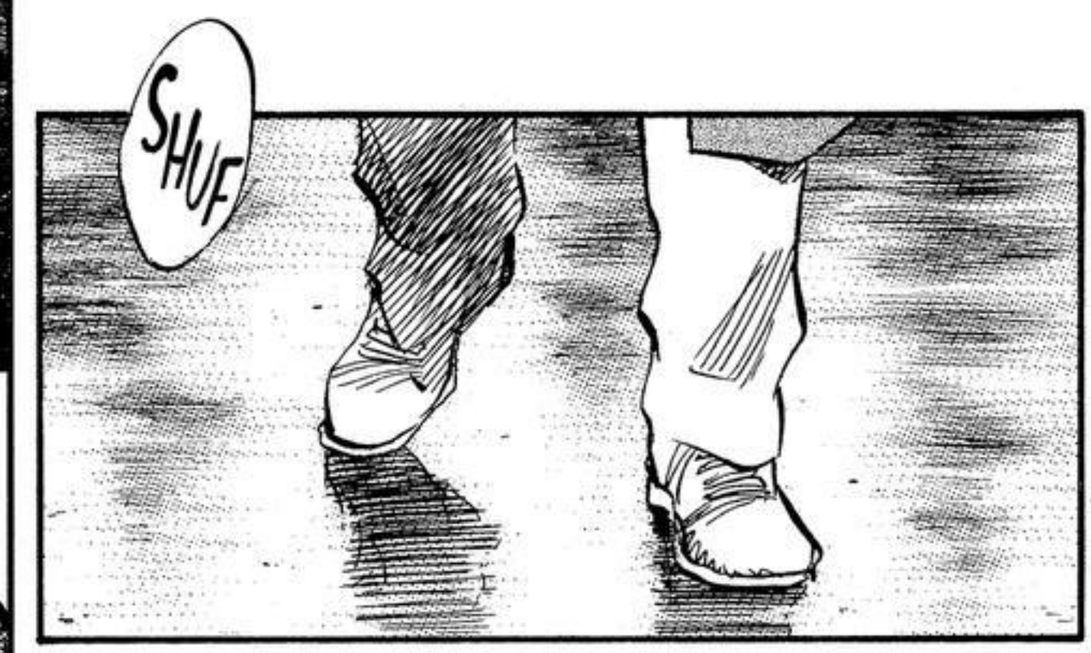

ATOM... HOW COULD YOU DO THIS?
HOW COULD YOU...?

ATOM...

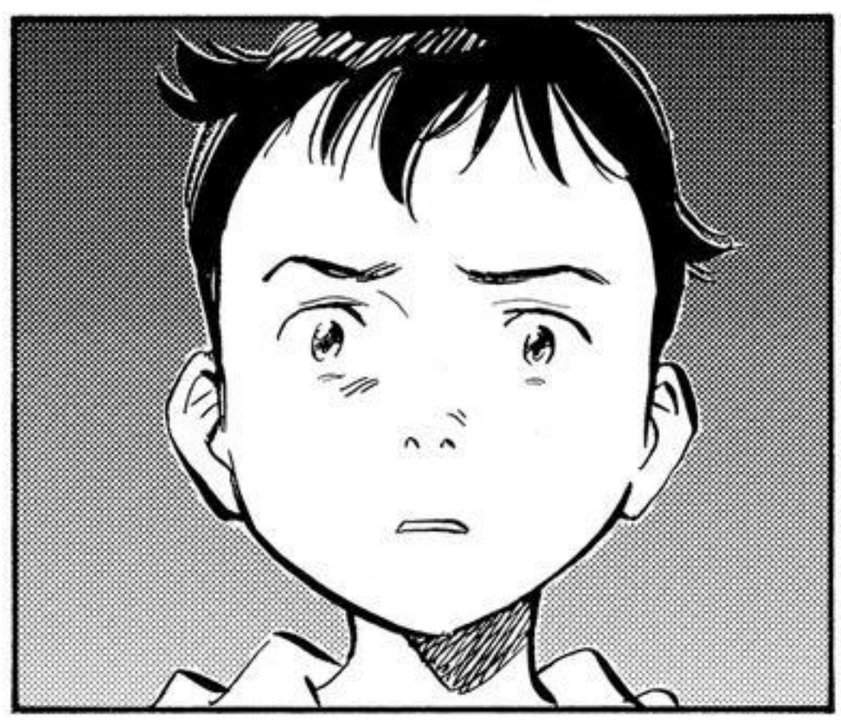
ATOM...

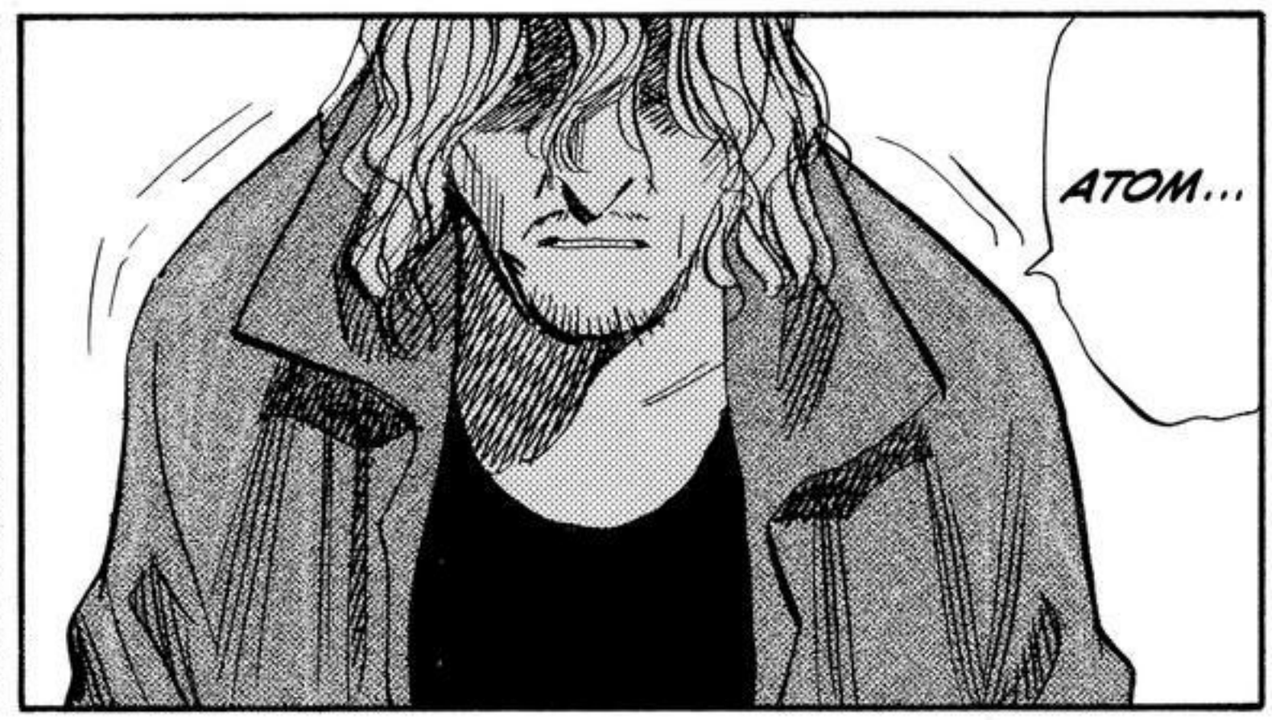
JUST GET OVER HERE, URAN... NOW!!

SHUF


SHUF

SHUF




ATOM...

I...
HATE...
YOU...

SYSTEM OVERLOAD!!

HUF

HUF

ATOM...

MISTER ...!!

ATOM...

STOP OR WE'LL *SHOOT*!

STOP!

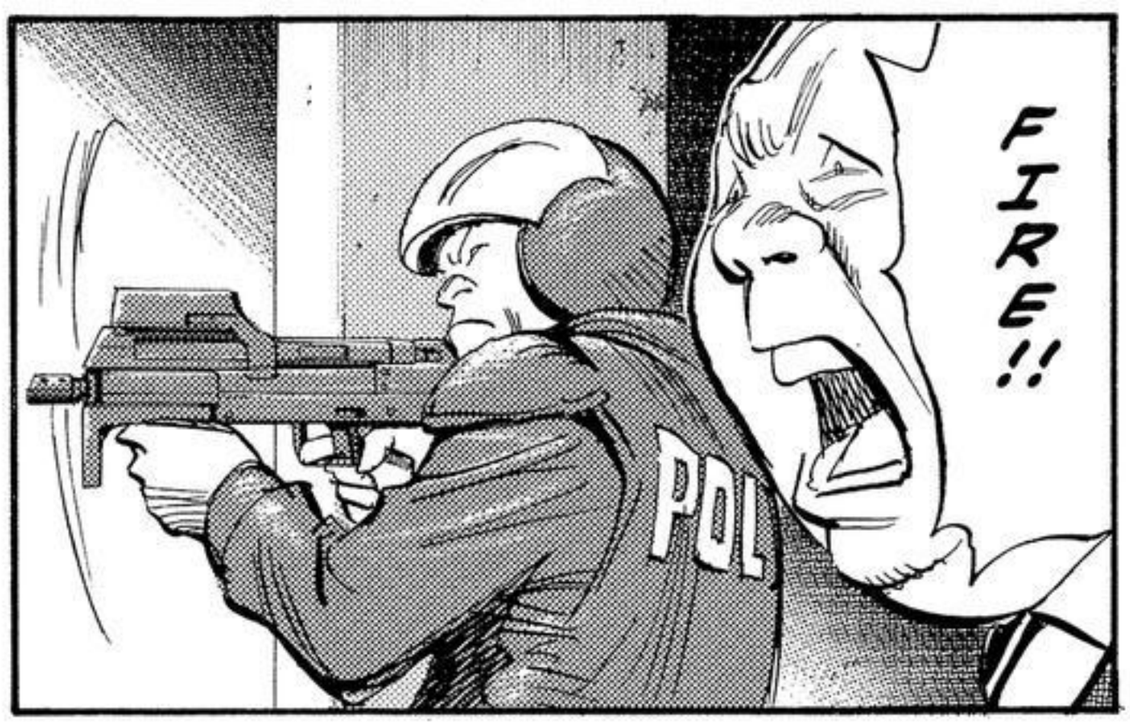
IT... IT'S GROWING SO FAST...

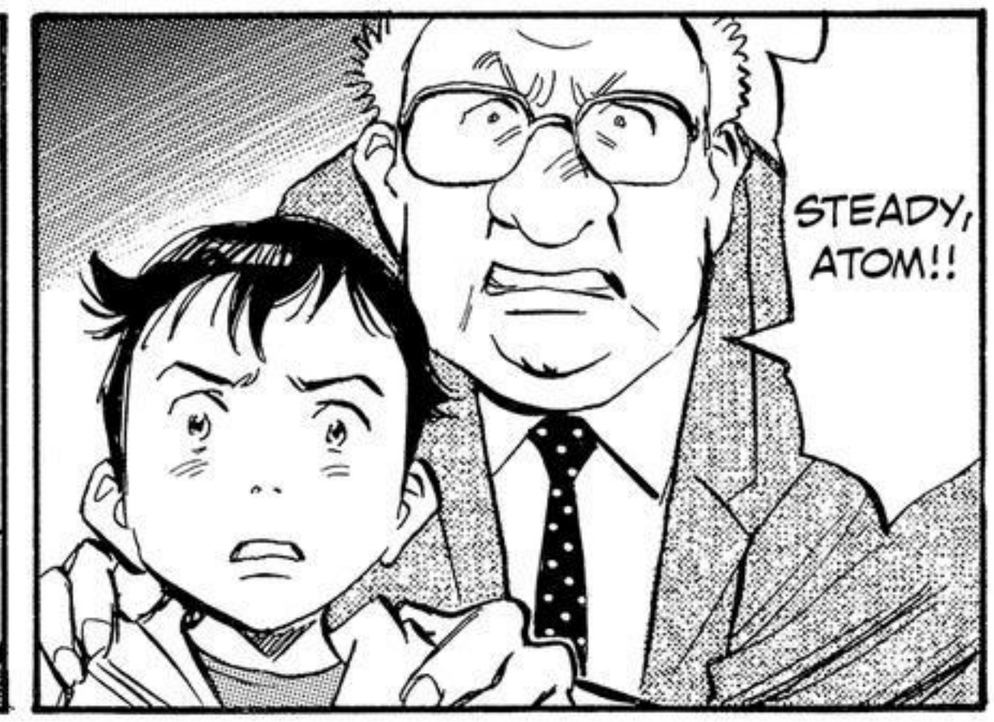
THE ANGER...

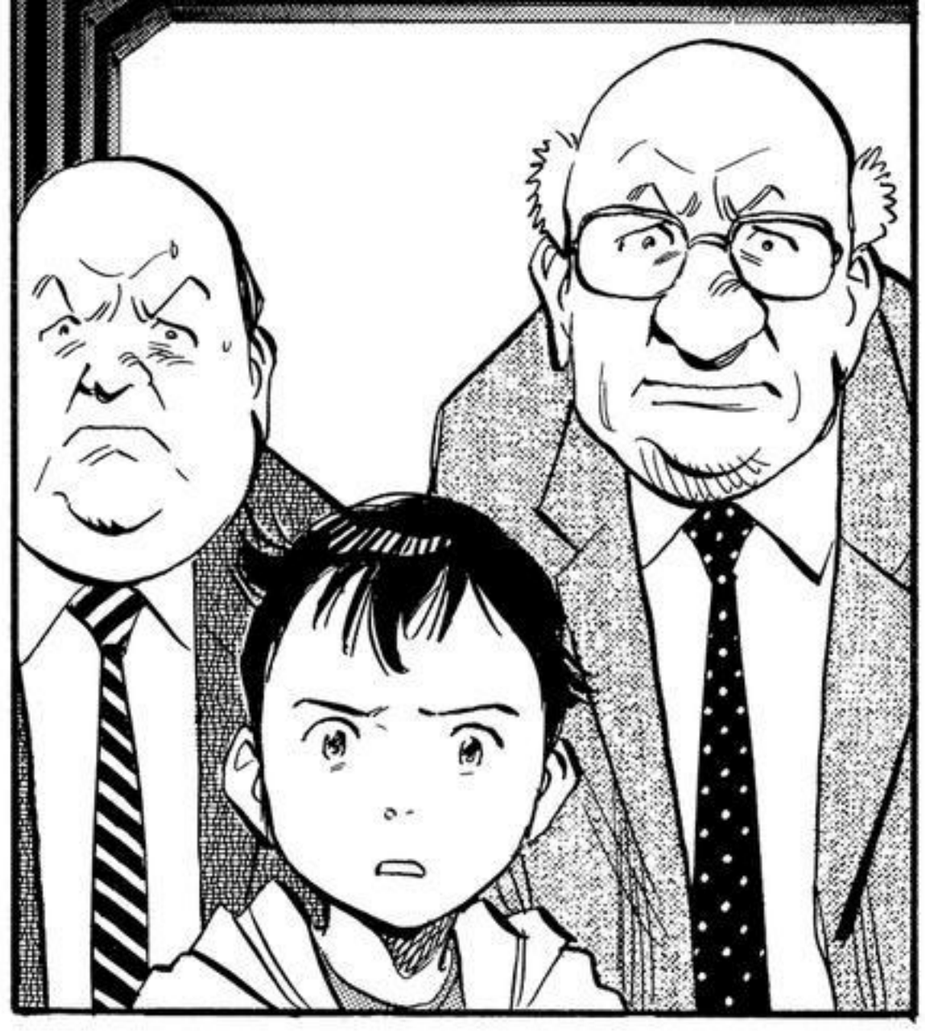
I'M GONNA EXPLODE ...

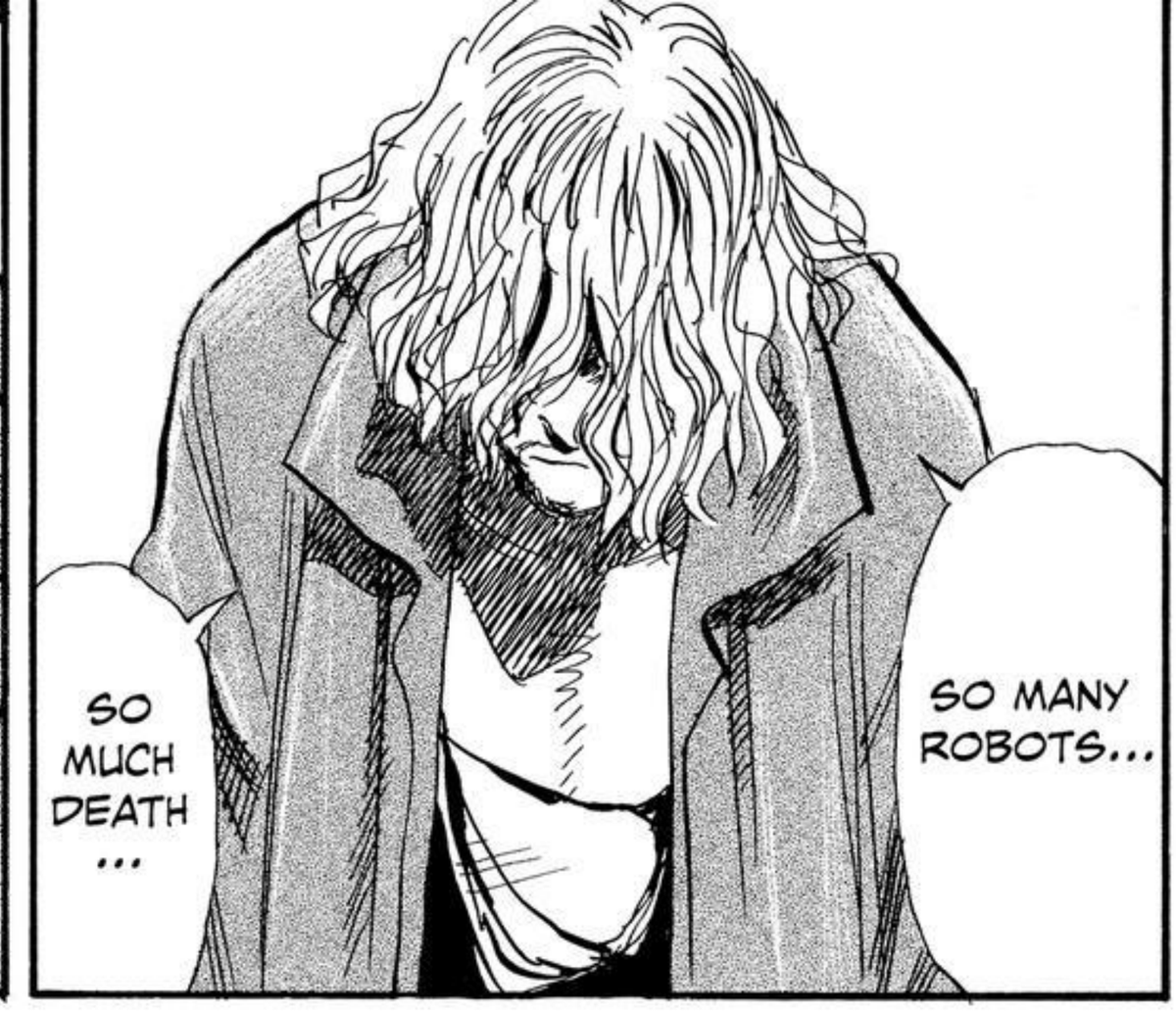
RIP!!!

ARGGGGHH!!

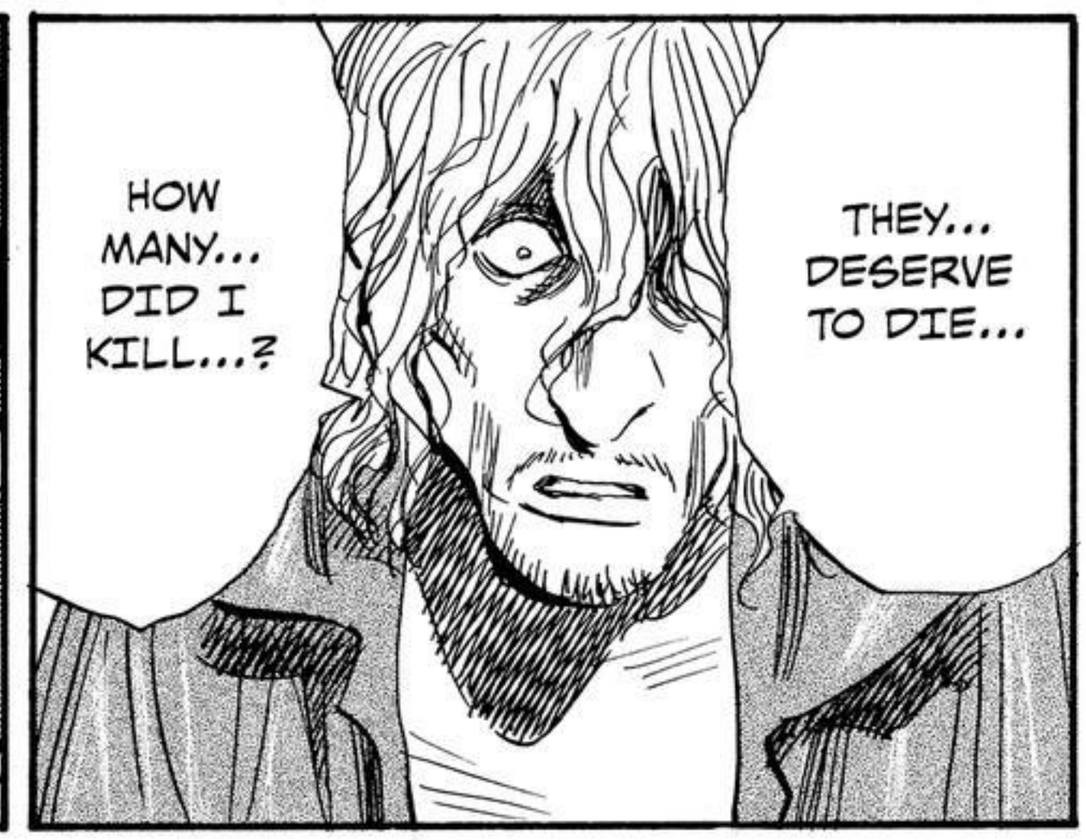


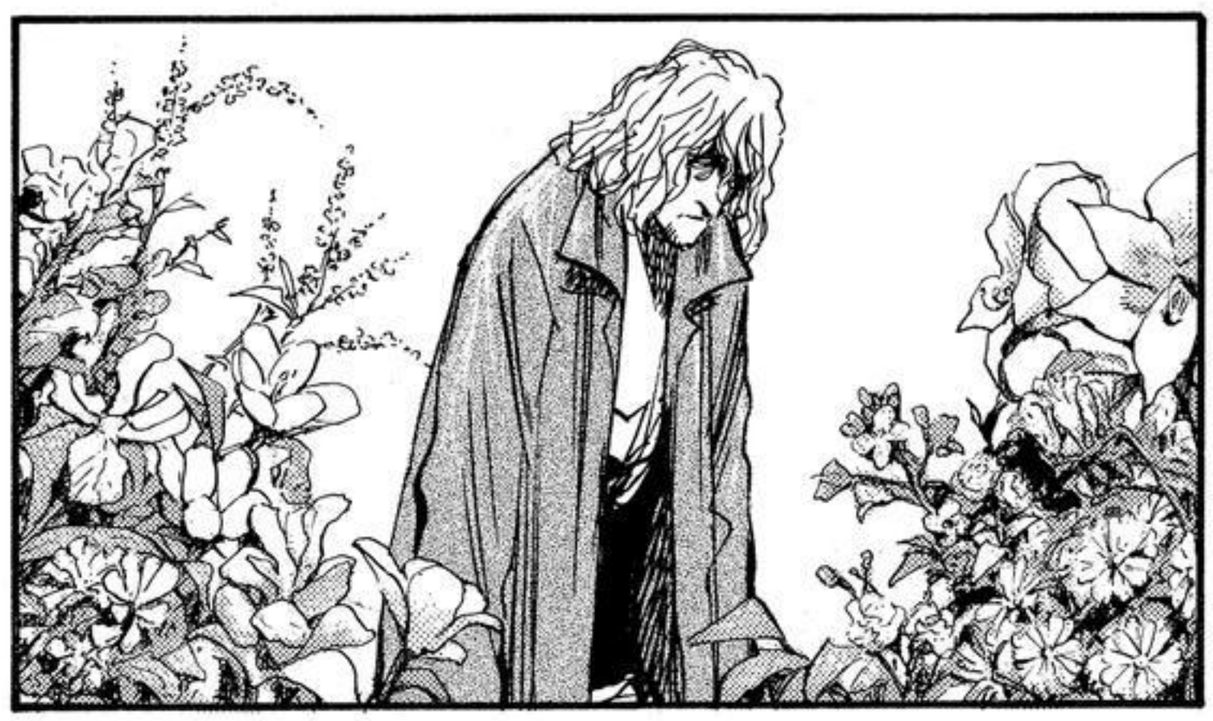


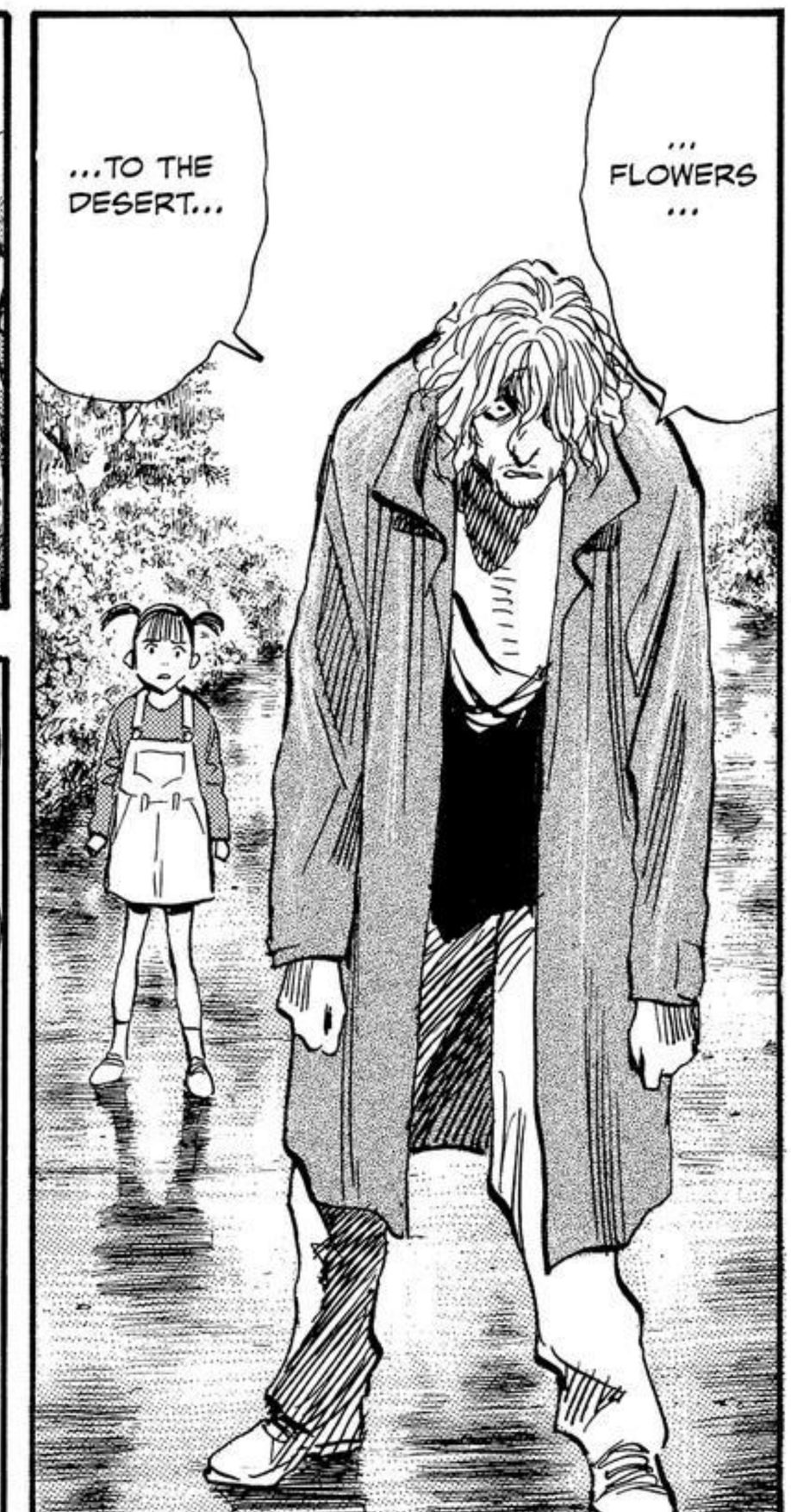



SO MUCH DEATH ...
SO MANY ROBOTS...

I BROUGHT ...

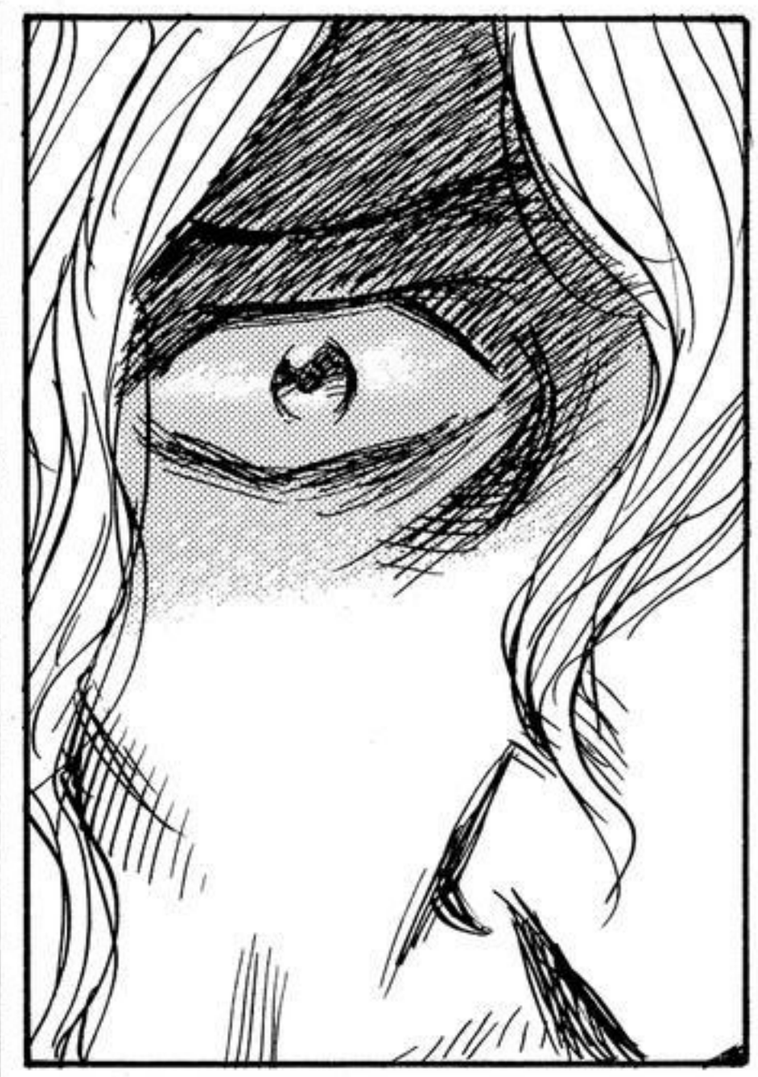

HOW MANY... DID I KILL...?
THEY... DESERVE TO DIE...

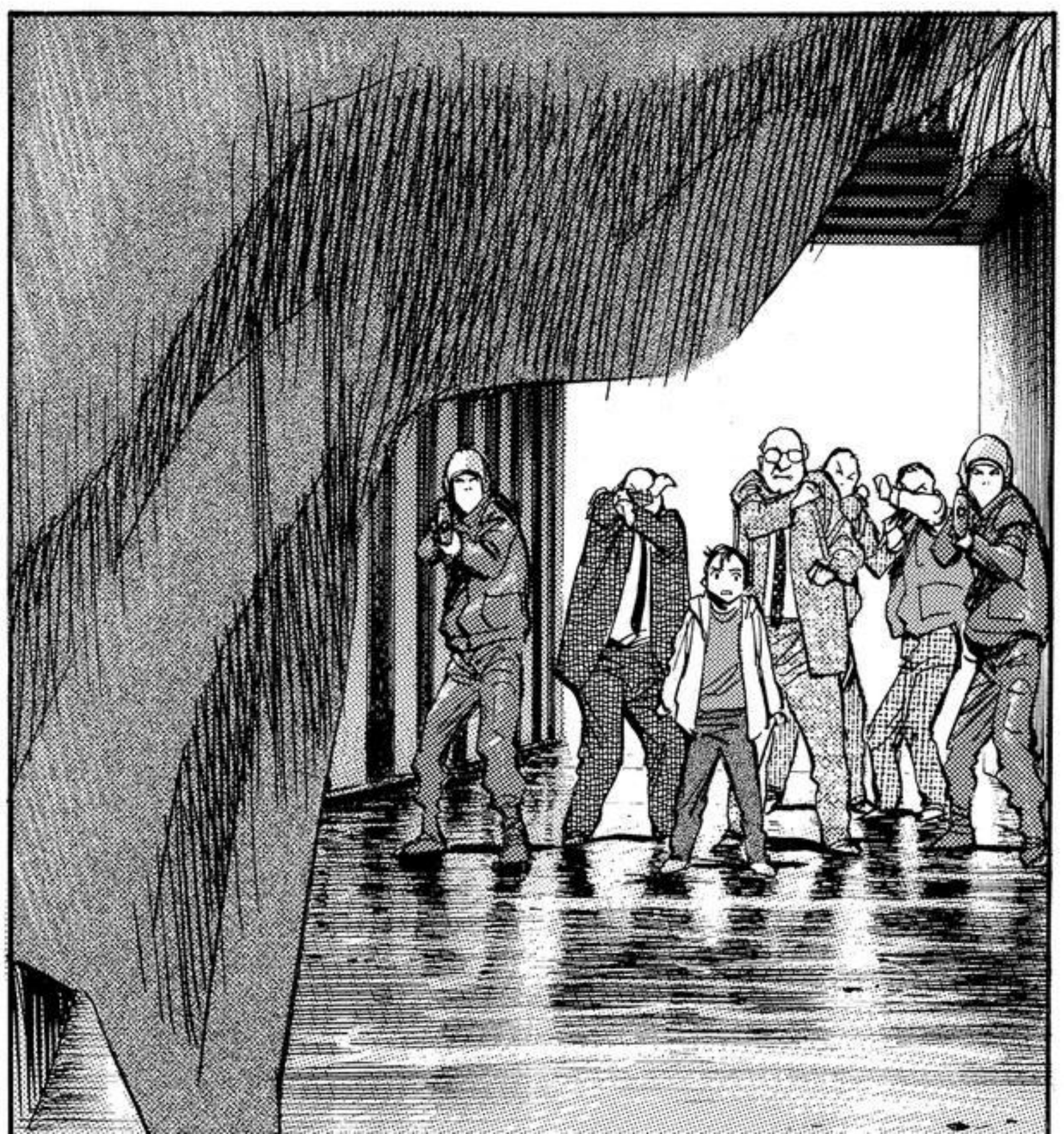



...TO THE DESERT...
... FLOWERS ...

A WORLD OF DEATH...

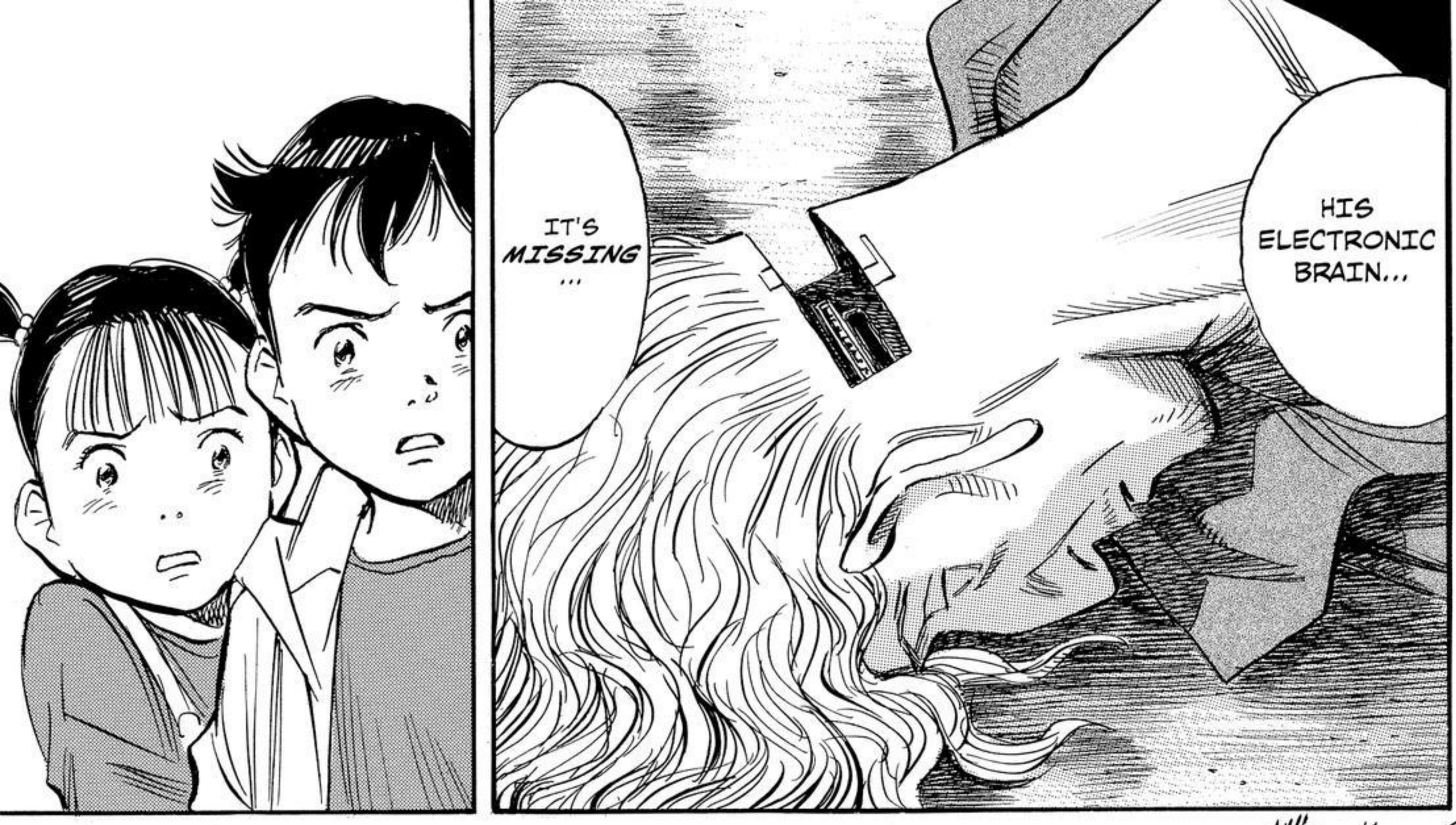
ZWT

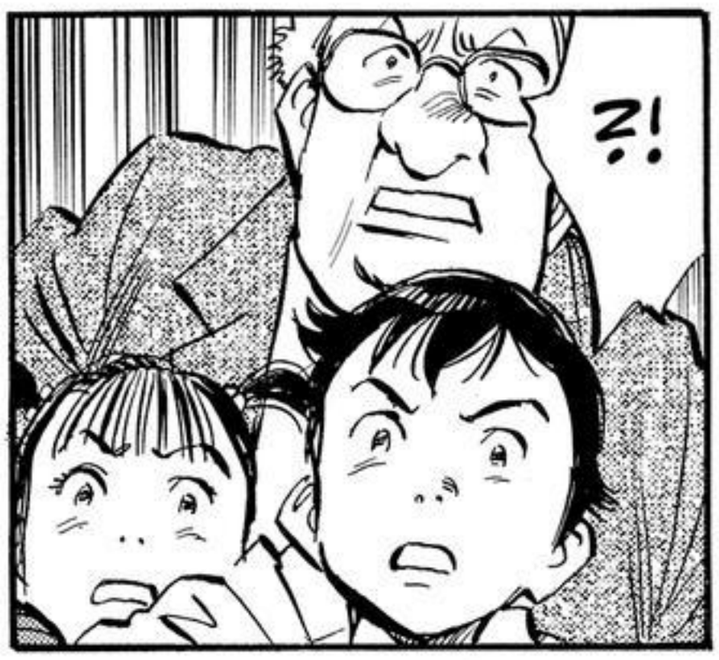




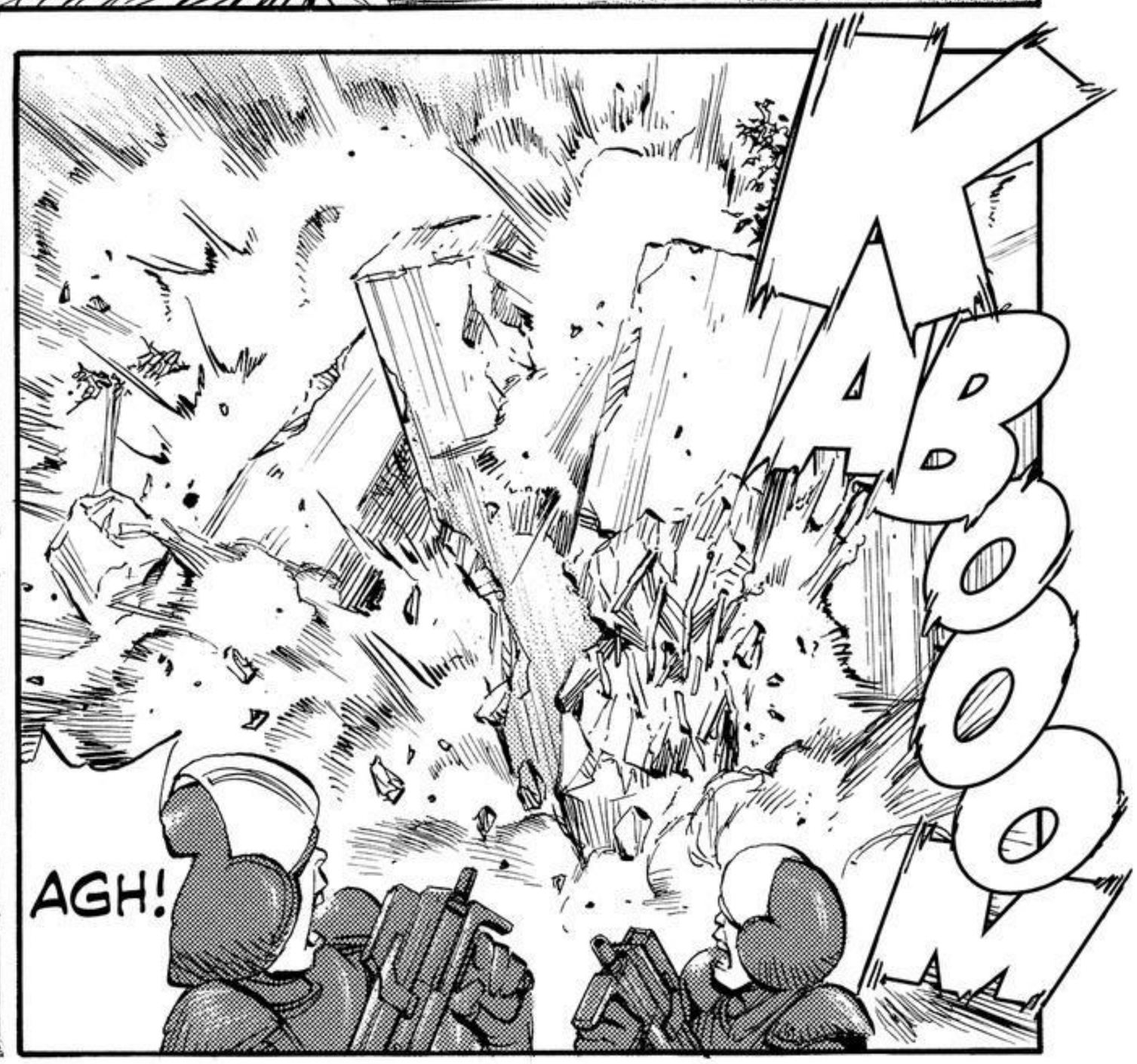
HORNS?!

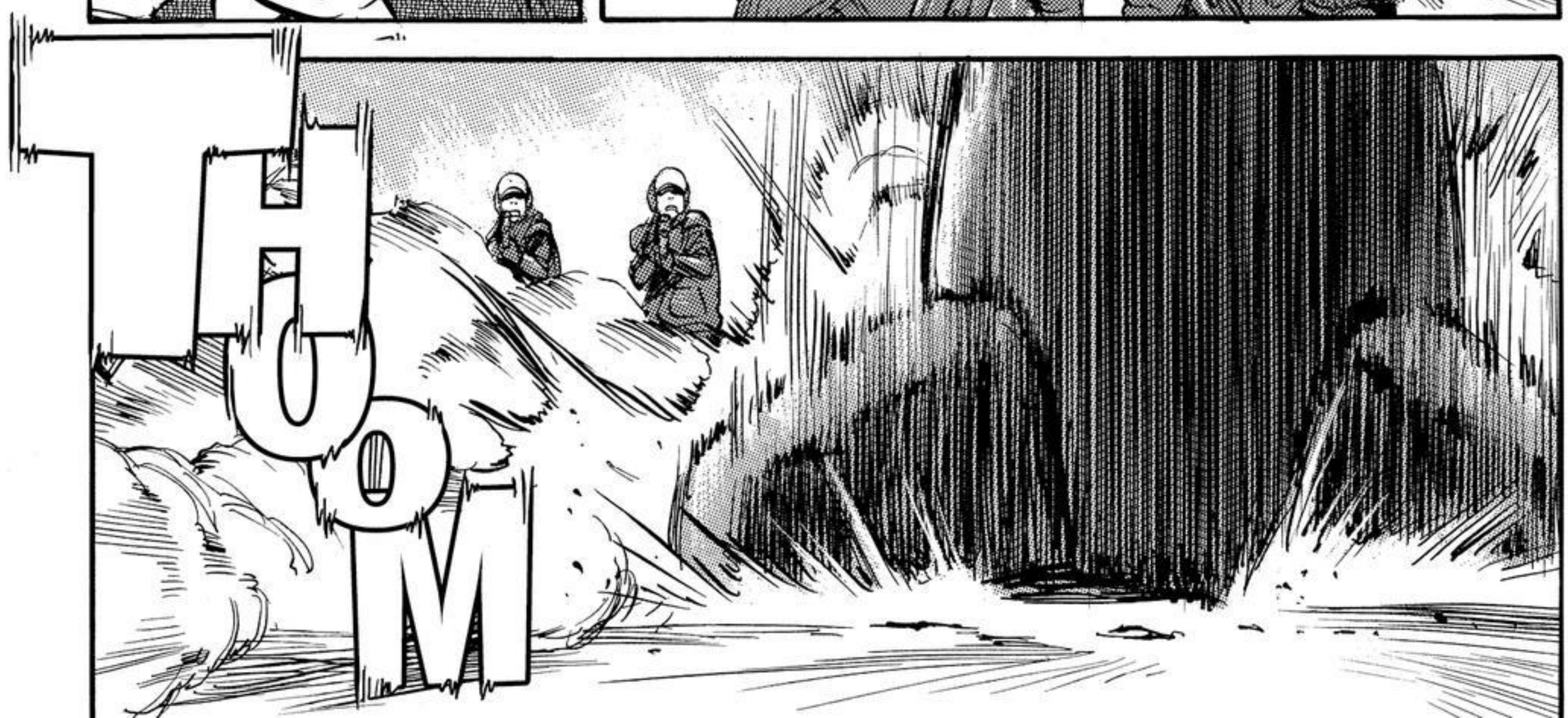
MISTER!!
THUD
WH-WHAT'S GOING ON...?
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS...
WHAT IS THIS, PROFESSOR?!


IT'S MISSING ...
HIS ELECTRONIC BRAIN...


?!

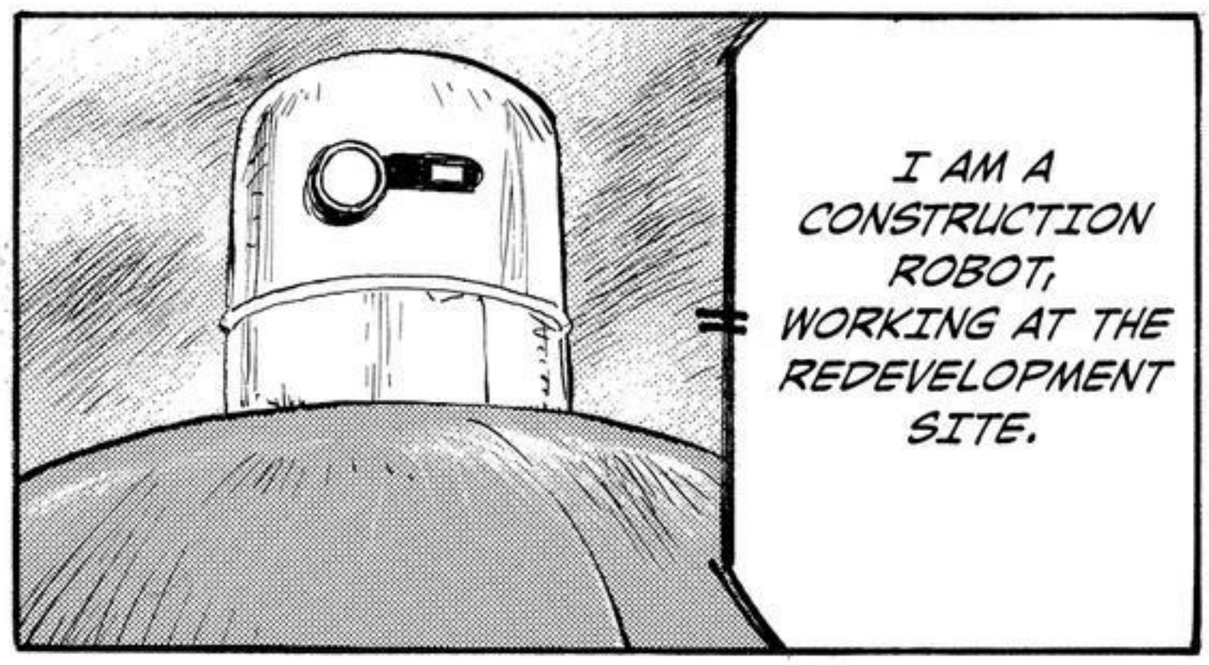
WHAT'S THAT?!

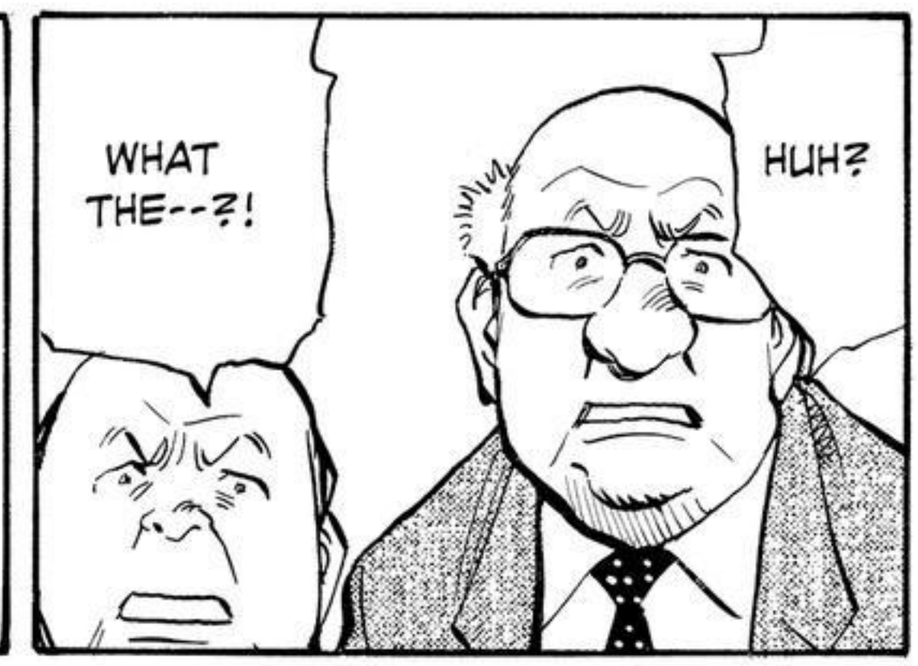

BOOM
AGH!

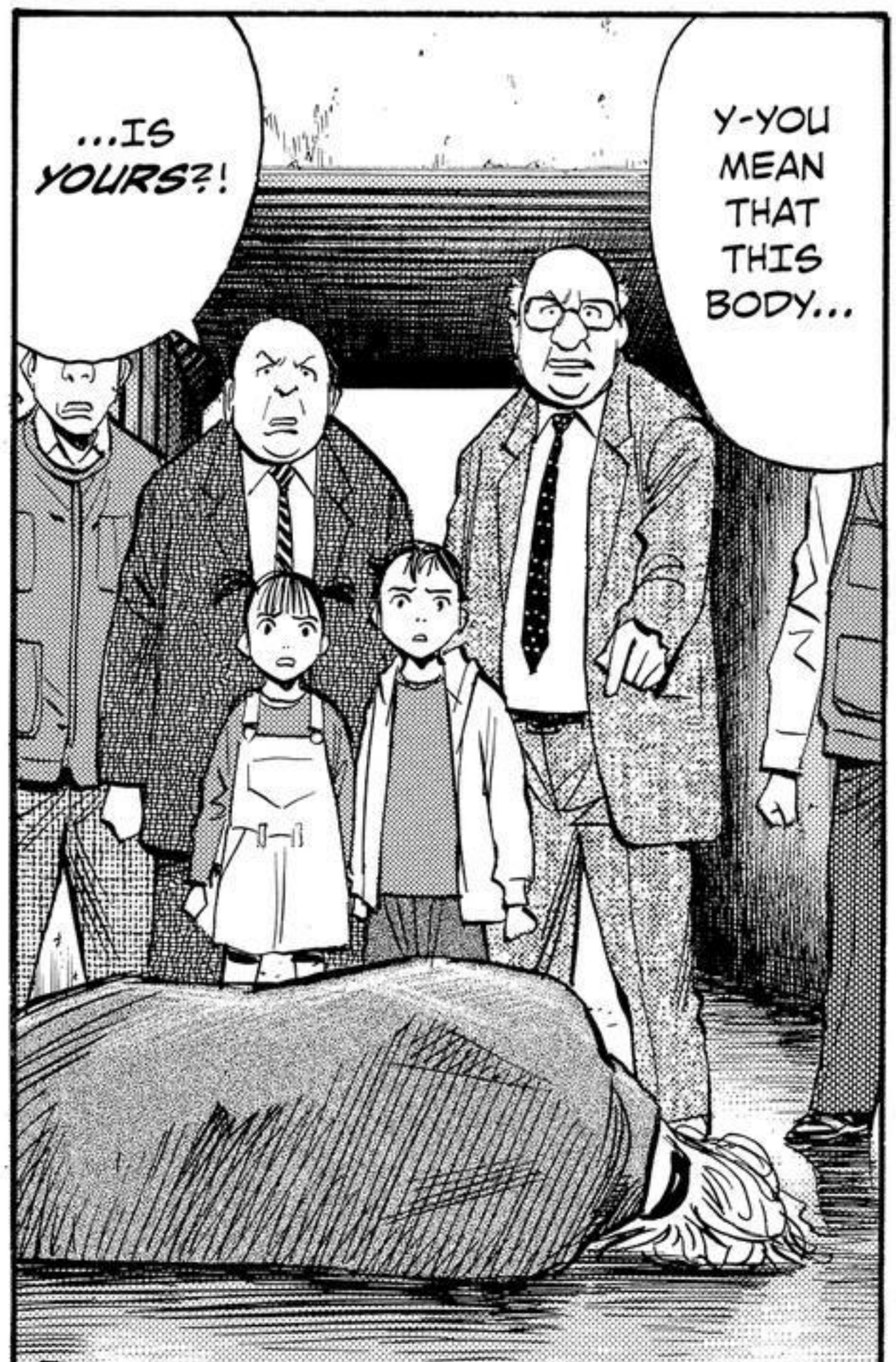

THUM

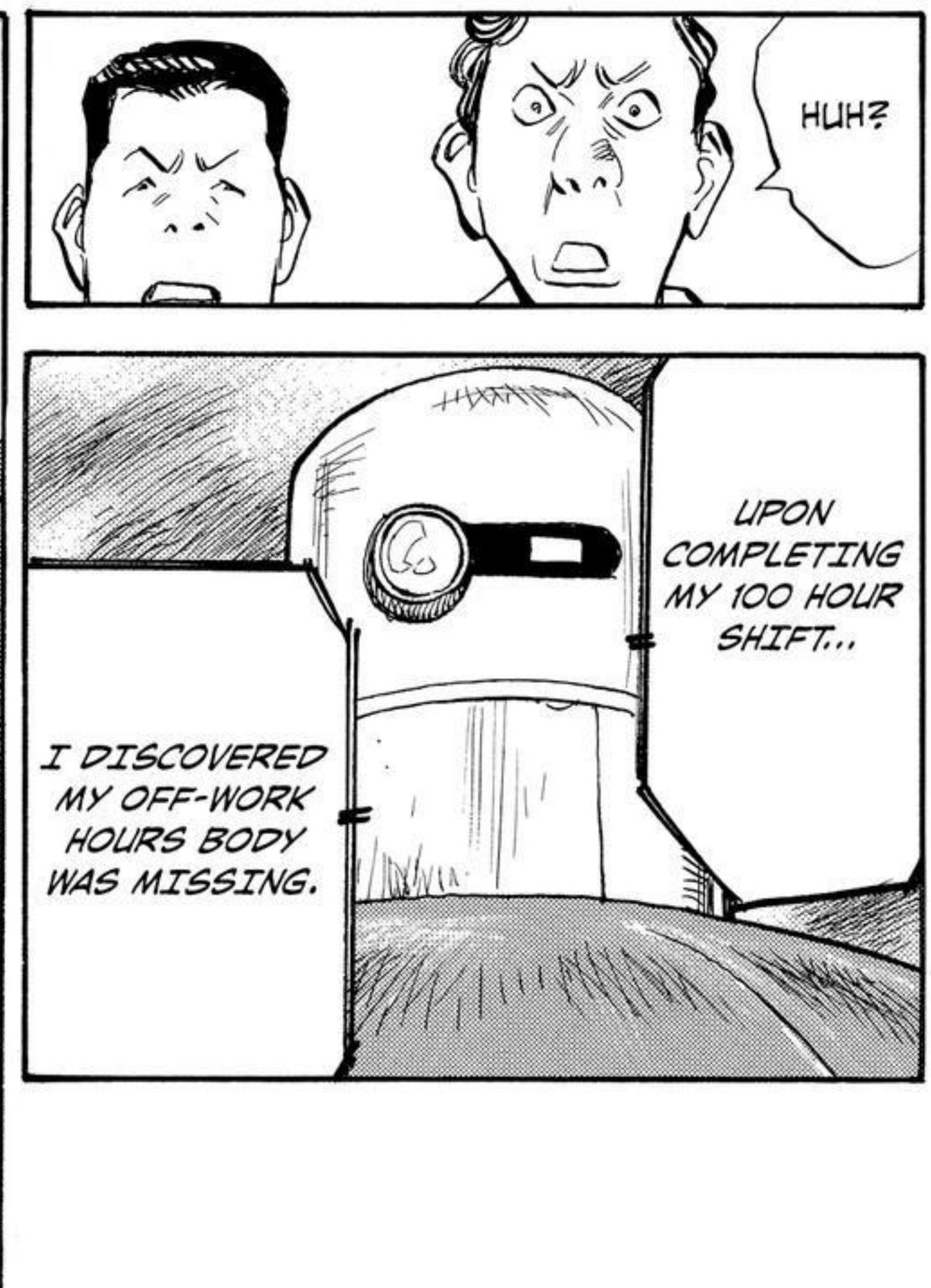
THAT IS MY BODY.

PSHOOOM—

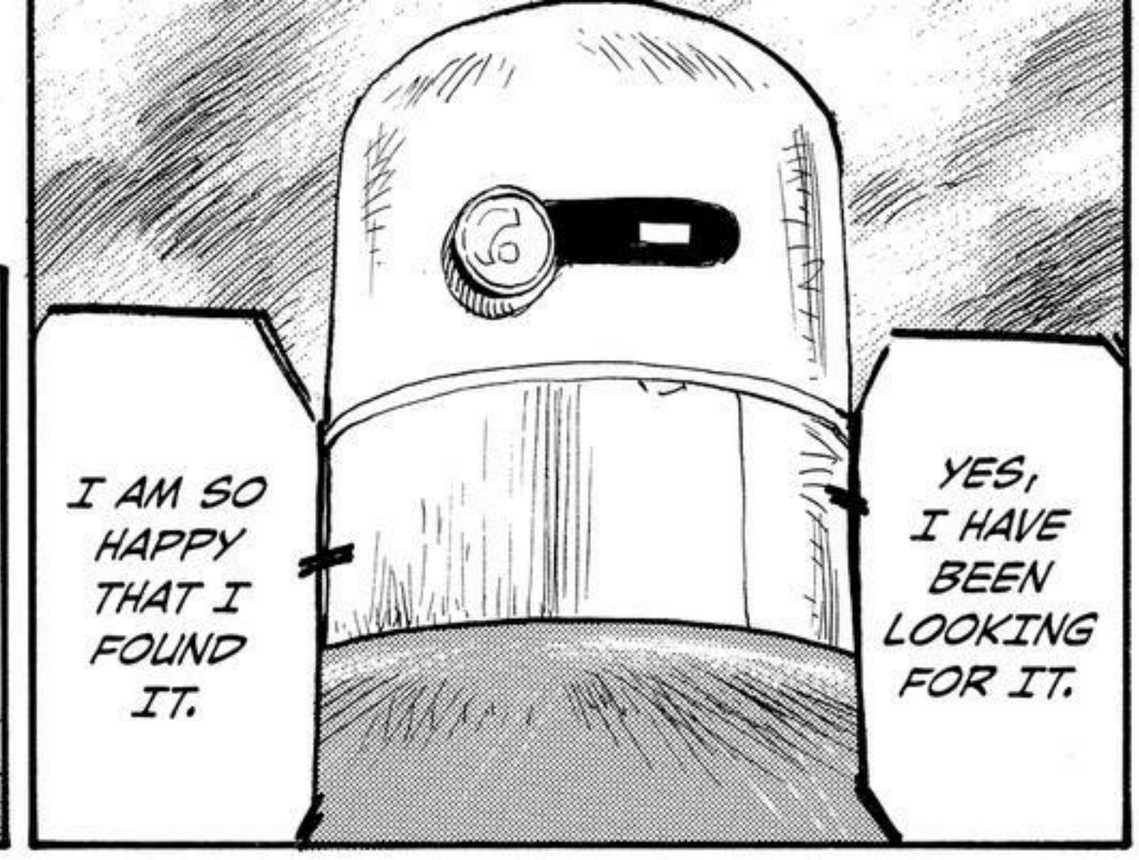


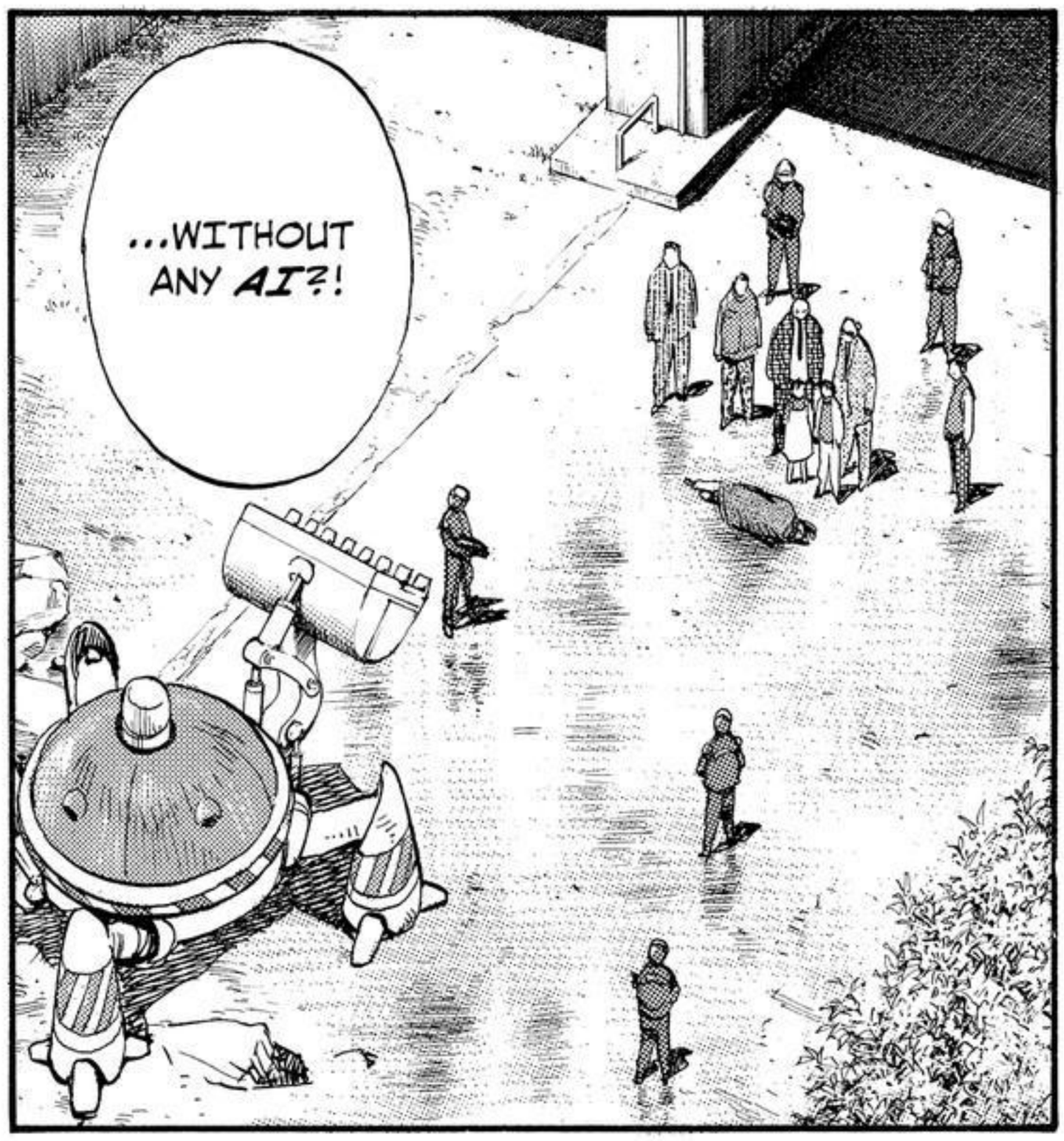


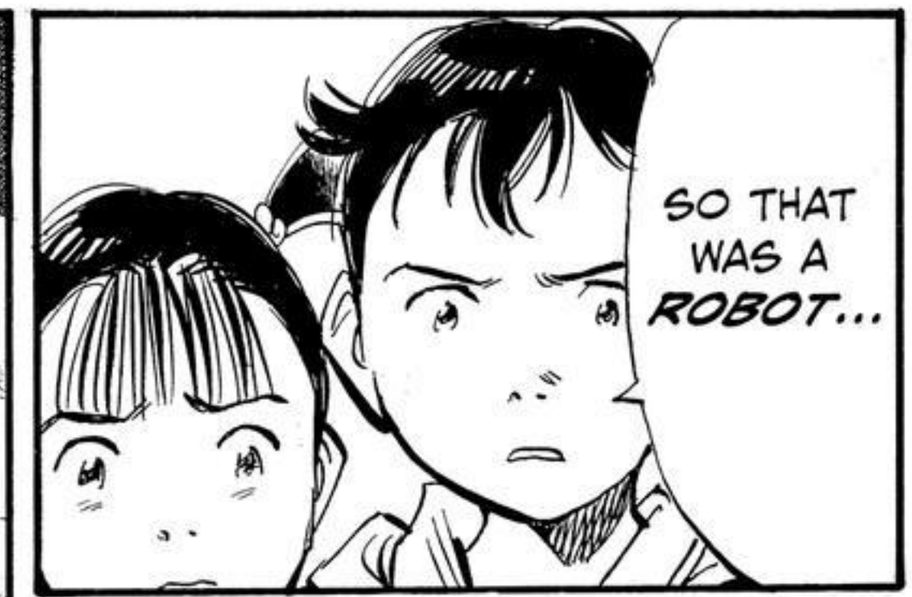


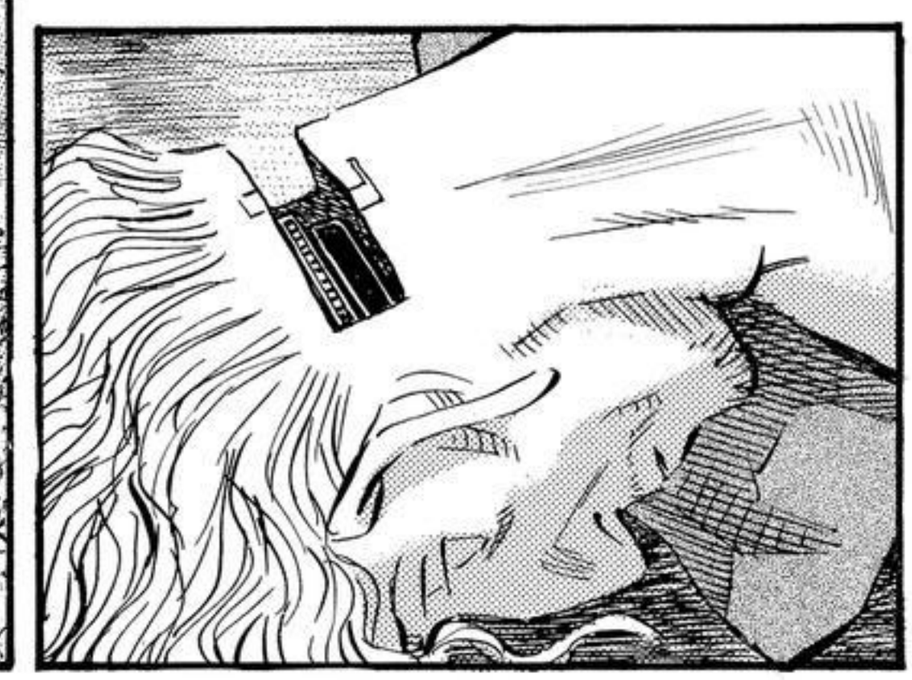


...IN HEAVEN'S NAME...?
WHAT...


I AM SO HAPPY THAT I FOUND IT.
YES, I HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR IT.


...WITHOUT ANY AI?!


SO THAT WAS A ROBOT...



OVER HERE...

A WANDERING SOUL, EH?

SHUF

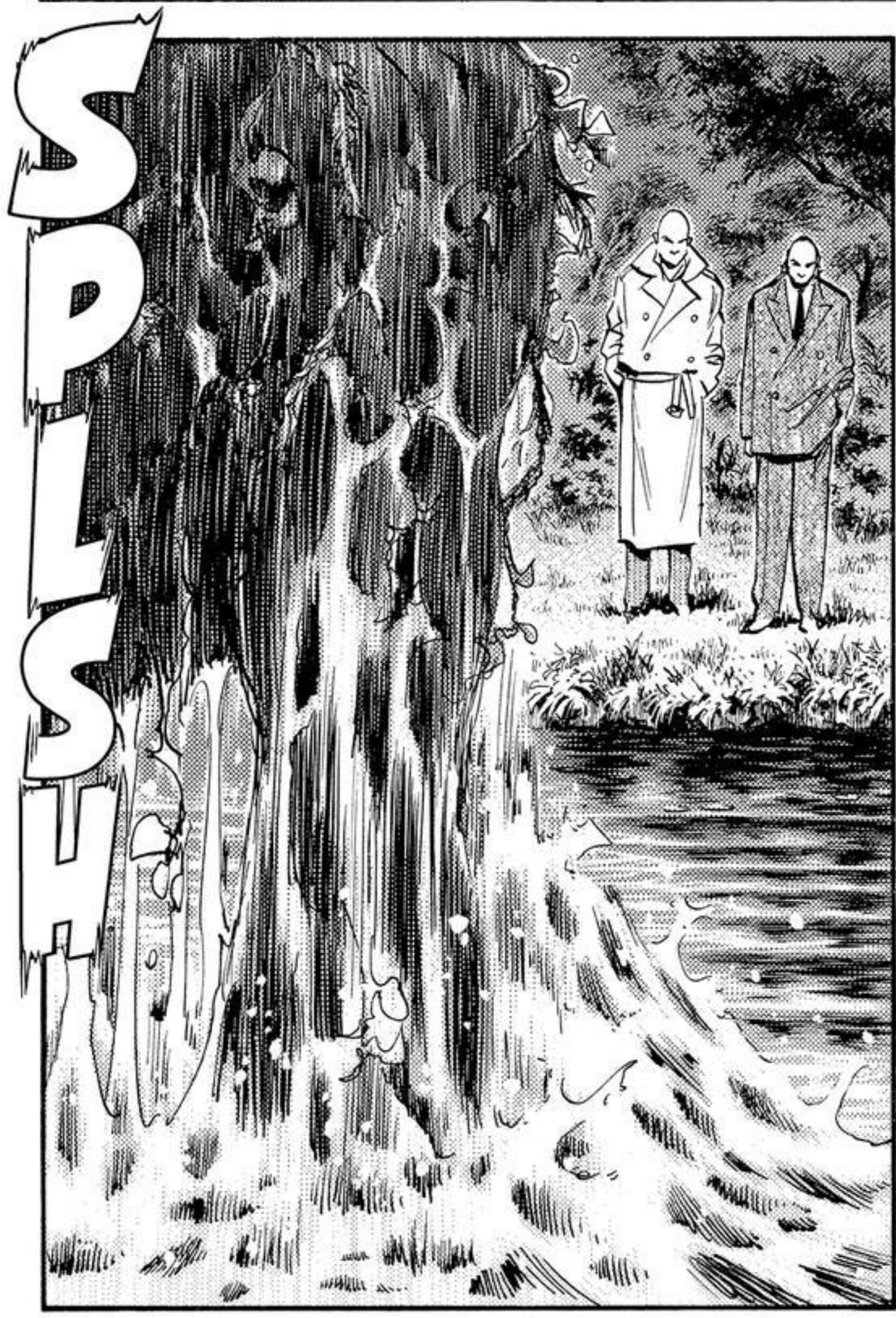
YOU MUST FEEL BETTER NOW... THAT'S THE END OF YOUR LITTLE WALK...

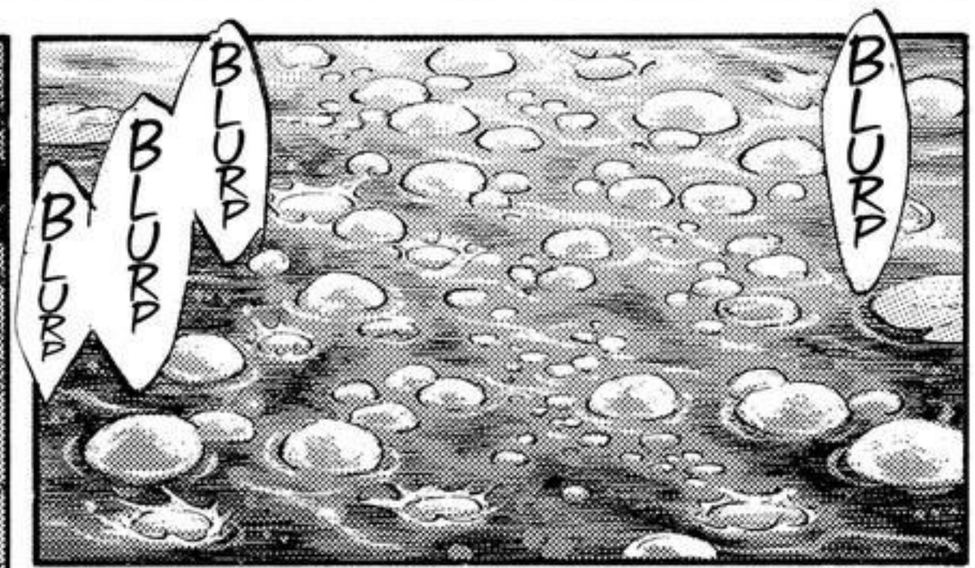
BUT IT WAS BASICALLY A ROBOT WITHOUT ANY AI, REMOTELY CONTROLLED BY ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES...

MAKES IT SOUND POETIC...

IT'S TIME TO COME BACK...

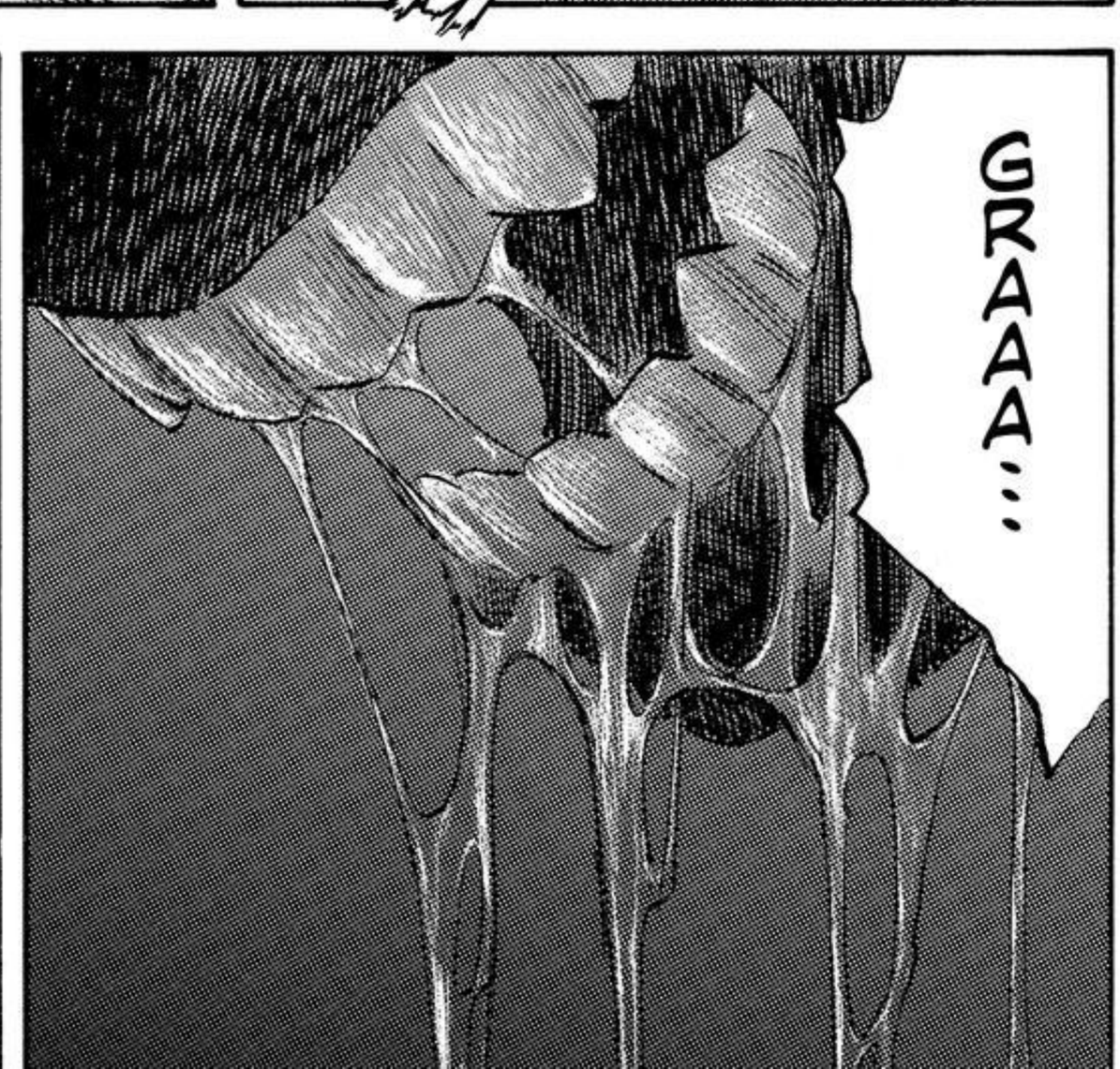
...
PLUTO
...
THIS IS YOUR ONLY BODY...


SPLSH


BLURP
BLURP
BLURP
BLURP

SHOOOOOOO

YOU MUST KILL ATOM!
DON'T FORGET YOUR ORDERS...


GRAAA...

GRA
AA
R

PLUTO: URASAWA × TEZUKA
VOLUME 7
VIZ SIGNATURE EDITION

BY Naoki Urasawa × Osamu Tezuka
CO-AUTHORED WITH Takashi Nagasaki
SUPERVISED BY Macoto Tezka
WITH THE COOPERATION OF Tezuka Productions

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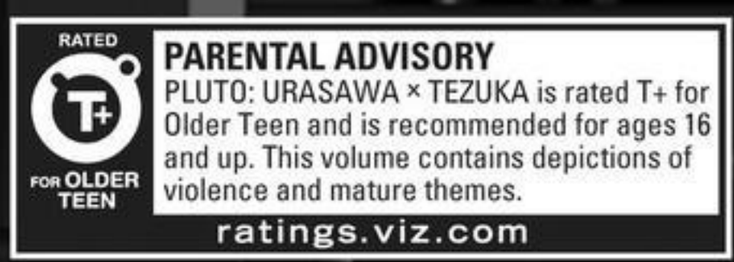
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